

2018-19

Clinical Annual Report

Ensuring Our

Patients' Trust



Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the end of the calendar year and enter the holiday season, we look back at another year of growth at Stamford Health. We are honored to share the 2019 Clinical Annual Report and thank our dedicated Department Chairs for their efforts in its preparation.

This year's Annual Report focuses on the achievements of our staff in Ensuring our Patients' Trust. As physicians, we are given the unique privilege to serve our community by providing the highest quality of care through clinical excellence, research and education.

As we reflect on and celebrate our accomplishments this year, our commitment to the Stamford community, our patients, physicians and staff is as strong as ever. Our focus is to build upon this year's accomplishments to fulfill our mission of becoming the most trusted healthcare partner in our community.

We look forward to our continued collaboration with our Medical Staff, Department Chairs, Hospital administrators, executive leaders and community of Stamford Health in 2020.

We wish you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season!



Rod Acosta, MD
Chief Physician Executive



Carol Fucigna, MD
President, Medical Staff

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Department of Anesthesiology



Betty Ann Robustelli, MD
Chair, Department of Anesthesiology

A Message From The Chair *The Year in Review*

2019 has shown to be the year for a team-based approach in medicine, and Stamford Anesthesiology Services, PC (SAS) is proud to be a part of this initiative. SAS continues to provide state-of-the-art anesthesia care to all of Stamford Health's patients, placing its focus on the collaboration with all of our colleagues to benefit the all-around care of our patients.

We are excited to welcome Dr. Robert Sickeler to the practice. Dr. Sickeler is a board-certified anesthesiologist, who just completed his fellowship in cardiothoracic anesthesiology at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medicine. He is also board-certified in transesophageal echocardiography. He will join Drs. Crane, Sosa, Jeffers and Denham, rounding out our robust cardiac anesthesia team. SAS continues to support the expansive growth within Stamford Health's Heart & Vascular Institute, which provides services to cardiac surgery, vascular surgery, non-invasive interventional medical cardiology, integrative cardiology and interventional radiology.

Also joining SAS is Dr. Maxine Bloom, who comes to us with 24 years of experience. Previously, Dr. Bloom has worked at Resource Anesthesiology Associates of Connecticut in Fairfield, Millennium Anesthesia in Margate, Florida, and she has also been an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine in San Juan.

We are expanding our CRNA staff, embracing the team approach to care in the anesthesia arena. This past year, we welcomed five talented CRNAs to our staff: Christian Lokko, Carlyne Moran, Nwanneka Ndubuaku, Kevin Traille and Garrett Jaffe. Richard Libutti was appointed to the new role of Chief CRNA. He has been with SAS for more than 10 years and is now responsible for: recruitment of CRNA personnel; facilitating the credentialing process; orientation and mentoring of new CRNAs; assisting with professional development; scheduling of CRNAs; and serving as the liaison between the CRNAs, SAS, surgical colleagues and OR staff. We are confident that Richard is the perfect fit for this role and will only enhance the relationship between our talented team of CRNAs, anesthesiologists, surgeons, nurses and all peri-operative staff.

SAS is proud to have been a collaborating partner in the opening of the Stamford Health Women's Specialty Center. The first of its kind in the region, the center offers a team-based approach to specialized care for women, bringing together a multidisciplinary team of specialists, resulting in one-of-a-kind care.

We continue to grow our team and collaborate with our medical staff colleagues with the goal of remaining the most trusted healthcare provider for our patients and community.

Active Staff

Anesthesiology

- Eva Benoit, CRNA
- Maxine Bloom, MD*
- Vincent Brunelli, CRNA
- Kirsten Butkovsky, CRNA
- Jen Cheng, CRNA
- Megan Coffman, MD
- Amy Crane, MD
- Joseph D'Agosto, MD
- Margot Denham, MD
- Kaili Dilts, MD
- Tara Doherty, DO
- Steven Fainkel, MD
- Jay Freilich, MD
- Ayse Fidan Genc, MD
- Ronald Giannotto, MD
- Elyse Goldblum, MD
- Michael Gordon, MD
- Stephen Harris, MD
- Juliet Jackson, MD
- Garrett Jaffe, CRNA*
- Eric Jankelovits, MD
- Devon Jeffers, MD
- Mandip Kalsi, MD
- Alla Koorn, MD
- David Lee, MD
- Richard Libutti, CRNA
- Christian Lokko, CRNA*
- Adnan Malik, MD
- Sergio Manimbo, MD
- John Martinez, CRNA
- Maria Mazzeo, MD
- Richard Morgulis, MD
- Carlynne Moran, CRNA*
- Nwaneka Ndubuaku, CRNA*
- Joseph Oxendine, MD
- Yevgeny Printsev, MD
- Thomas Quinn, MD
- Shahid Rafiq, MD
- Kanishka Rajput, MD
- Betty Ann Robustelli, MD
- Elizabeth Rozen, MD
- Philip Rubin, MD
- Robert Sickeler, MD*
- Andrew Sosa, MD
- Brian Sullivan, MD

- Kevin Traille, CRNA*
- Holly Thiel, CRNA
- Benjamin Unger, MD
- Shiry Weisberg, MD
- Thomas Wong, MD
- Shayna Zachary, MD

Pain Management

- Vincent Carlesi, MD
- Julie Huang-Lionnet, MD
- Ofer Wellisch, MD
- Christian Whitney, DO

**denotes new staff*

Major Accomplishments

- SAS along with colorectal surgeons successfully implemented an Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) program for its patients. This program is comprised of evidence-based protocols that have been developed for colorectal laparoscopic surgery patients and were designed to standardize medical care, improve outcomes and lower healthcare costs. These protocols combine a multidisciplinary approach with patients, surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and ancillary staff in all phases of care, with a main focus on the well-being of the patient.
- Due to the implementation of the ERAS program, the average hospital length of stay for colorectal laparoscopic patients decreased from 6.5 days to 4.5 days, and the average post-operative day (POD) time period to ambulation or to the chair was POD 1.2. Due to the positive results, SAS and Stamford

Health surgeons are beginning to expand ERAS protocols into procedures for bariatric and hysterectomy patients. We are excited to be a part of these initiatives to better serve our patients.

- Dr. Megan Coffman, Obstetric Anesthesia Clinic Director, spearheaded collaboration with the new Stamford Health Women's Specialty Center. SAS focuses its care on the obstetric patients, participating in a monthly clinic, meeting with pregnant women to go over any concerns they or their doctors may have. SAS is committed to providing state-of-the-art obstetric anesthesia care and is available to assist our obstetric colleagues in managing the pain of labor and delivery, administering anesthesia for C-sections and managing any emergencies that may arise. The clinic will help facilitate communication and better outcomes for expectant mothers.

Current Initiatives

SAS physicians are involved on hospital committees every year. Our participation includes the following:

- Credentialing – *Dr. Steven Finkel*
- Trauma – *Dr. Brian Sullivan*
- Pharmacy & Therapeutics – *Dr. Joseph D'Agosto*
- Resuscitation – *Dr. Betty Ann Robustelli*
- MEC – *Dr. Betty Ann Robustelli & Dr. Steven Finkel*
- OB/Safety Culture – *Dr. Shayna Zachary*
- Quality & Safety – *Dr. Betty Ann Robustelli*
- OR Committee – *Dr. Betty Ann Robustelli*
- Total Joint & Spine – *Dr. Brian Sullivan & Dr. Juliet Jackson*
- Peer Review – *Dr. Richard Morgulis, Dr. Andrew Sosa, Dr. Amy Crane & Dr. Brian Sullivan*
- ERAS (Enhanced Recovery After Surgery) – *Dr. Betty Ann Robustelli*
- POP Clinic (Pre-Surgical Optimization Program) – *Dr. Betty Ann Robustelli & Dr. Juliet Jackson*
- Interventional Stroke Implementation Committee – *Dr. Betty Ann Robustelli & Dr. Maria Mazzeo*
- Obstetric Anesthesia Clinic Director – *Dr. Megan Coffman*



Light blue hairnet

Blue scrubs

Light blue hairnet

Blue scrubs

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Checkout

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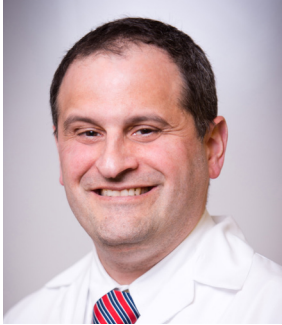
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Surgical light fixture

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Department of Emergency Medicine



Alan Weiner, MD

Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine

A Letter From The Chair *The Year in Review*

Medical emergencies can happen to any person at any time. Our Emergency Department is available to treat any type of medical emergency 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week. No one is turned away. We treat every age group, from newborns to seniors. The ED team realizes that medical emergencies are frightening experiences for patients and their loved ones. We pride ourselves in not just dealing with the patient's medical needs, but their psychological and spiritual needs as well. We are not only healthcare professionals. We are engaged members of the Stamford community, taking pride in the vital role we play in promoting community health.

In many ways, the ED is the "front door" of Stamford Hospital. We see approximately 60,000 patients per year. Twenty percent of those patients are children. While most of these patients can be discharged home after their evaluation, more than 20% will be kept in the hospital. We want patients and visitors to have a positive first impression of Stamford Hospital. The new hospital is now three years old. Our spacious, state-of-the-art ED has the most up-to-date technology. The design of our Emergency Room is "patient friendly." Ninety percent of our rooms are private rooms, and all rooms have televisions. The entire Department supports wi-fi. There are patient nourishment centers as well as ample seating for relatives and visitors. While Emergency Department visits are unplanned and stressful, we strive for the best possible experience for our patients and their families.

Our commitment to the community we serve starts with our dedication to excellence in providing pediatric emergency care. Our Pediatric Emergency Department (PED) is a separate unit within the larger Emergency Department. Staffed by Pediatric Emergency Medicine specialists, our PED is open 10-12 hours each day. We see approximately 20,000 children each year. Children who cannot be discharged home will be admitted to our Inpatient Pediatrics Unit. Pediatric specialty services are available when needed. The dedicated staff of the PED have received specialized training to meet the medical and emotional needs of children. Every effort is made to make their experience as pain-free as possible. Pediatric volume in our ED has risen every year since the unit first opened. With the PED, Stamford Hospital has established itself as the leader in pediatric care in Fairfield County.

The staff of the Stamford Hospital Emergency Department is proud of the vital role we play in maintaining the health of the community we serve. We are ready to provide care at any time of the day or night. Whether the patient has a small cut or a life-threatening illness, our dedicated, professional staff will always be available to help. For the last several years, the number of patients we have seen has increased. We believe this is because we recognize that the patient is at the center of everything that we do. We want our patients to be as enthusiastic about our hospital as we are, and to know that their Emergency Department is one of the best in the state.

Active Staff

- Miriam Ambalu, MD
- Daniel Berhanu, MD
- Maria Brea, MD
- Mamie Caton, MD
- Monique Cunin, MD
- Antonio Dajer, MD
- Ahteri Forcada-Lowrie, MD
- Amy Gandhi, MD
- Andrew Jenis, MD
- Richard Katz, MD
- Donald Lombino, MD
- Heather Machen, MD (Peds)
- Asim Malik, DO
- Samuel Maryles, MD
- Jose Mejia, MD
- Sachin Modi, MD
- Kathy Park, MD
- Shivani Patel, DO
- Anna Pickens, MD
- Alexandr Rafailov, MD
- Melissa Shear, DO
- Dorothy Turnbull, MD
- Alan Weiner, MD
- Bonnie Wreschner, MD
- Deborah Berry, PA-C
- Katherine Chase, PA-C
- Matt Champeau, PA-C
- Sarah Feigenbaum, PA-C
- Tyler Ferraro, PA-C
- Breanne Fuller, PA-C
- Anthony Giannuzzi, PA-C
- Antonia Green, PA-C
- Vanie Mangal, PA-C
- Lauren Marvin, PA-C*
- Michael Moi, PA-C
- Mordechai Sacks, PA-C
- Jamie Schlesinger, PA-C
- Michael Skovira, PA-C
- Julie Wilmot, PA-C

**denotes new staff*

Major Accomplishments

- The Department's total volume has increased by 3% since 2018.
- The Geriatric Emergency Medicine Initiative (GEMI) is now in its second year. Patients ages 65 and over who come to the ED are given special attention with our geriatric nurse specialists. In 2019, our geriatric nurse specialists evaluated more than 1,800 patients in the ED. As a result, less than 4% of patients returned to the ED within 72 hours. Additionally, our patient experience scores from these patients are consistently positive. We look forward to extending the hours of this highly successful program in 2020.
- We have partnered with the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) to offer immediate assistance for patients who present with substance use disorder-related medical conditions. A recovery coach from CCAR will see the patient while they are still in the ED.
- The ED played a vital role in Stamford Hospital becoming a certified Stroke Center of Excellence by the American Stroke Association. Within the last year, we successfully launched our stroke thrombectomy program, offering another treatment modality to patients suffering from stroke. With this procedure, a clot obstructing blood flow to the brain can be removed through a catheter, restoring normal blood flow. This procedure has shown promise in limiting the injury to the brain following stroke and leading to better functional outcomes for such patients. Stamford Hospital is one of only a few hospitals in Connecticut offering this cutting-edge treatment for stroke patients.

Current Initiatives

- Our Pediatric Emergency Department has served thousands of children in Fairfield County. We will continue to grow our dedicated staff of Pediatric Emergency Medicine staff and will be expanding the hours of the PED to continue to support its growth.
- The Emergency Department is committed to minimizing wait times and getting our patients home as soon as possible. We are initiating a dedicated fast track for lower acuity patients and will be streamlining the triage process to get patients to a bed faster and initiate care faster.



Emergency Department Entry

Department of Family Medicine



Joshua B. Herbert, MD

Interim Chair, Department of Family Medicine

A Letter From The Chair *The Year in Review*

As we approach the close of 2019, I would like to recognize and thank Dr. Joseph Connelly for his leadership as Chair of the Department of Family Medicine. Over the past 10 years, Dr. Connelly has been a role model for the members of our Department and our residency program. We are grateful for his contributions.

Family Medicine continues to be the most in-demand specialty in 2019 – a trend that has continued for the past 13 years. The role of Family Medicine is defined by the American Academy of Family Physicians as “personal doctors for all people of all ages and health conditions. They are a reliable first contact for health concerns and directly address most healthcare needs. Through enduring partnerships, family physicians help patients prevent, understand and manage illness, navigate the health system and set health goals.” These partnerships are only possible with established trust between the patient and physician, and between the physician and healthcare system. We are fortunate to have cultivated that trust with our patients, within our own Department and with Stamford Health.

The Department of Family Medicine continues to grow in the primary, secondary and extended service areas of Stamford Health. In addition to the growth in the number of physicians, the services provided by Family Medicine continue to grow. Our own Department members are involved in Integrative Medicine and Wellness, Geriatrics, Palliative Care, Hospitalist Medicine, Urgent Care, Private Practice, Graduate Medical Education, Public Health, Executive Leadership, Regional/National Leadership, Ethics, Technology, Quality, Research, Medical Staff Committees, Peer Review and Faculty Positions.

The Family Medicine Residency Program (one of four in Connecticut) continues to attract competitive applicants. Again in 2019, the applicant pool grew to more than 1,500 medical school candidates to be screened and interviewed. The top 100 candidates were interviewed and ranked to match our five available positions. We also welcomed two of our graduates this year to join Stamford Health Medical Group. Another testament to the strength of our Department is that 22 of our 33 members are graduates of our own Family Medicine program. In fact, one graduate, Dr. Rod Acosta, began a new role as Chief Physician Executive of Stamford Health. This is in addition to his current responsibility as President and Chief Executive Officer of Stamford Health Medical Group.

As we move into 2020 and beyond, the Department of Family Medicine will continue to build on its reputation of strength and trust to provide comprehensive care to our community. We will lead primary care into the next generation by advocating for our patients and by living the mission, vision and values of Stamford Health. We will maintain our commitment to quality with the promise always to keep the needs of our patients the priority.

Active Staff

- Rodrigo Acosta, MD
- Ravinder Alaigh, MD
- Sadhna Alaigh, MD
- Daniel Bal, MD
- Lidya Bal, MD
- Jennifer Bendl, MD
- Marc Brodsky, MD
- Joseph Connelly, MD
- Ruby Desai, MD
- Chander Devaraj, MD
- Shanthy Devaraj, MD
- Jack DiTeodoro, MD
- Alan Falkoff, MD
- Joseph Feuerstein, MD
- Tabitha Fortt, MD
- Gabriella Gellrich, MD
- Joshua Herbert, MD
- Anna Jamrozik, MD
- Lyuba Kofler, MD*
- Danielle LaSalandra, MD*
- Lawrence Leibowitz, MD
- Angelo Mallozzi, MD
- Sherry Ng, MD
- Kathleen Nurena, MD
- Deborah Pinto, MD
- Kamilah Rose, MD
- Ashley Rountree, MD*
- J. Robert Shapiro, MD
- Stanley Skolnick, MD
- Katherine Takayasu, MD
- Fang Wang, MD
- Ann Williams, MD
- Henry Yoon, MD

**denotes new staff*

Major Accomplishments

- Drs. Rod Acosta, Joshua Herbert, Lawrence Leibowitz, Angelo Mallozzi and Ann Williams were named Castle Connolly Top Doctors of 2019.
- Dr. Katherine Takayasu was nominated for the Fairfield County Medical Association's Magida Award.
- Dr. J. Robert Shapiro retired after 38 years on the Medical Staff.
- Dr. Jack DiTeodoro was elected the Secretary/Treasurer for the Medical Staff.
- Dr. Rod Acosta was promoted to the newly created role of Chief Physician Executive of Stamford Health. This is in addition to his current responsibility as President and Chief Executive Officer of Stamford Health Medical Group.

Current Initiatives

- We are in the process of recruiting a full-time Chair for the Department of Family Medicine.
- We continue to expand the footprint of Family Medicine in Stamford and our surrounding areas.
- The Department is expanding and improving access to care in Stamford Health's primary, secondary and extended service areas.
- We continue to attract top candidates to the Family Medicine Residency Program and increase recruitment upon graduation.
- We are growing the Physician Alliance of Stamford (PAS) to assist community physicians in managing the ongoing costs of running a practice and to maintain alignment and engagement with Stamford Health.
- We continue to support, engage and balance the needs of a department of employed and independent physicians.
- We encourage Department participation in teaching medical students and residents.
- The Department has an increased focus on quality metrics to continue to provide excellent care to our community.
- Family Medicine physicians maintain active Stamford Health/Hospital Committee Participation.
- We have seen ongoing support and growth for Stamford Health Medical Group (SHMG).
- The Department continues to offer a full-time, two-year Integrative Medicine Fellowship at the Center for Integrative Medicine and Wellness.



Department of Medicine



Nicholas Fiebach, MD
Chair, Department of Medicine

A Letter From The Chair *The Year in Review*

The Department of Medicine is the largest department at Stamford Hospital, spanning 17 specialty divisions. It includes proceduralists, intensivists, hospitalists and office-based physicians. The past year was an outstanding one for Medicine, demonstrating in multiple ways how patients put their trust in us.

The newest division, General Internal Medicine, was formed this year, with Dr. Craig Olin as its founding director. This division is comprised of the Department's primary care physicians, whose comprehensive and long-term care of our patients is surely worthy of their trust.

Several of our divisions provide the most advanced, state-of-art care for life-threatening medical problems. The remarkable growth this year of structural heart and electrophysiology procedures in our cardiac labs, and the launch of the acute thrombectomy for stroke program in Neurology, highlight the trust of the sickest patients in Stamford Hospital.

Historic low rates in hospital-acquired infections were achieved this year, and medical staff in our Infectious Diseases division played a large role in that accomplishment. The Pre-Surgical Optimization Program (POP Clinic), devised by our Hospitalist division, provides truly innovative and coordinated assessment and education to patients having surgery here. With its growth this year there has been a steady decline in cancelled operations and post-operative infections. Patients admitted to Stamford Hospital can trust that they will be as safe here as at any hospital.

In the past year, several of our divisions were recognized for providing outreach and support to our community. The Dementia Volunteer program, a partnership between our Geriatrics Division, Stamford Hospital and the Alzheimer's Association, won the Planetree Global Person-Centered Innovation Award. The Endocrinology group was chosen to be part of the Type 1 to Type None campaign by the Westchester/Fairfield County Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The Stamford community can trust that we are looking out for its most vulnerable people.

The Medical Staff and House Staff in the Department of Medicine regularly have gone above and beyond during this past year to earn the trust of our patients.

Allergy and Immunology



Paul S. Lindner, MD
Director

Active Staff

- Denis A. Bouboulis, MD
- Ora Burstein, MD
- Leslie R. Coleman, MD
- Mitchell R. Lester, MD
- Paul S. Lindner, MD
- Mark Litchman, MD
- Aymeric Louit, MD
- Agnieszka Matczuk, MD

Major Accomplishments

- Dr. Mitch Lester was elected to serve on the board of directors of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology.

Cardiology



David Hsi, MD
Director

Active Staff

- Charles Augenbraun, MD
- Jeffrey Berman, MD
- Samuel Brodsky, MD
- Salvatore Carbonaro, MD
- Edward Carreras, MD*
- Joonun (Chris) Choi, MD
- Michael Collins, MD
- Evelyn Cusack, MD
- Greg D'Onofrio, MD
- Sandhya Dhruvakumar, MD
- Arzhang Fallahi, MD
- Patricia Garst, NP

Cardiology continued

- Natalia Gouzanova, NP
- David Hsi, MD
- Robert Jumper, MD
- Anna Koulova, MD*
- Robert Labarre, MD
- Josh Lader, MD
- Edward Lin, MD
- David Lorenz, MD
- Scott Martin, MD
- Wayne Miller, MD
- Thomas Nero, MD
- John Novella, MD
- Bibian Odhiambo, NP
- Mina Owlia, MD
- Suhash Patel, DO
- Michael Pittaro, MD
- Edward Portnay, MD
- Marlon Rosenbaum, MD
- Charles Rouse, MD
- Edward Schuster, MD
- Jared Selter, MD
- Nikhil Sikand, MD*
- Joseph Tiano, MD
- Anja Wagner, MD

*denotes new staff

Major Accomplishments

- Two new cardiologists, Dr. Anna Koulova and Dr. Nikhil Sikand, joined the staff and provide expertise in cardiac imaging, structural heart disease and cardiac MRI.
- The Structural Heart Program and Valve Center continued its impressive growth, with more than 70 TAVR procedures performed in fiscal year 2019.
- The Cardiac Electrophysiology (EP) program also had continued growth, with a double-digit increase in total procedure volume including Watchman™ procedures.
- Dr. Evelyn Cusack was named director of the Women's Cardiology Program for Stamford Health.

Current Initiatives

- *The Pulse*, the division's quarterly physician newsletter, under the editorial direction of Dr. Chris Choi, provides cardiology updates for many physicians and allied health professionals in Fairfield County.
- There are many ongoing active research protocols involving hypertension, heart failure, interventional cardiology and EP services.

Department of Medicine

Dermatology



Ellen Naidorf, MD
Director

Active Staff

- Severine Chavel, MD
- Rhett Drugge, MD
- Robin Evans, MD
- Rena Fortier, MD
- Samuel Gettler, MD
- Rebecca Hall, MD
- Omar Ibrahim, MD, PhD
- Sharon Littzi, MD
- Elizabeth Marsh, MD
- Fern Mayer, MD
- Ellen Naidorf, MD
- Debra Pruzan-Clain, MD
- Sandeep Saluja, MD
- Donald Savitz, MD

Major Accomplishments

- Drs. Severine Chavel, Rhett Drugge, Robin Evans, Sam Gettler, Omar Ibrahim, Fern Mayer and Elizabeth Marsh were named Castle Connolly Top Doctors.
- Dr. Severine Chavel was named to Connecticut's Best Doctors by *Connecticut Magazine*.
- Dr. Elizabeth Marsh was named to Top Doctors Fairfield County as chosen by her peers.
- Dr. Ellen Naidorf received the Vitals Patients' Choice Award and the Castle Connolly Exceptional Women in Medicine Award.

Current Initiatives

- Many members of the division see underserved patients in the Dermatology Clinic at Optimus Healthcare, where the Stamford Health Medical Group has provided new equipment and supplies.
- Dr. Rhett Drugge leads innovations in detecting early skin cancer and the development of the Melanoscan®.
- Dr. Omar Ibrahim is president of the Connecticut Dermatology Society and is on the Board of Directors of the American Society for Lasers in Surgery and Medicine.

Endocrinology



Bismruta Misra, MD
Director

Active Staff

- Maria Cecilia Asnis, MD
- Jill Ely, MS, FNP-BC
- Anna Freitag, MD
- Melissa Goldstein, MD
- Rebekah Gospin, MD
- Michael Marchese, MD
- Bismruta Misra, MD
- Antonio Pantaleo, MD
- Noel Robin, MD
- Ann Rupp, MS, FNP-BC*

**denotes new staff*

Major Accomplishments

- Dr. Maria Cecilia Asnis and Dr. Michael Marchese are now additionally board-certified in Obesity Medicine.
- Stamford Health Medical Group endocrinologists are actively involved with the Westchester/Fairfield County Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, being a sponsor at their annual gala. The group was also part of the Type 1 to Type None campaign.
- The Stamford Health Osteoporosis Center had successful community events this year at the New Canaan YMCA, Darien YMCA and Greenwich YWCA. "Workout with the Doc" featured SHMG endocrinologists exercising with patients and answering questions regarding osteoporosis.
- Dr. Michael Marchese completed his first year doing both inpatient and outpatient endocrinology. He expanded the inpatient program and worked extensively with Dr. Paul Huang on developing inpatient diabetes and hyperkalemia protocols.
- The division now has two nurse practitioners, Jill Ely and Ann Rupp, both with extensive experience with insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitoring.

Current Initiatives

- Dr. Maria Cecilia Asnis is developing a medical weight loss center which will offer Optifast meal replacement.
- Dr. Melissa Goldstein is working on creating a multidisciplinary transgender care program and has become known in the area as an expert in transgender medicine. She is member of the World Professional Association of Transgender Health (WPATH), and attended the U.S. conference in Washington, DC in September 2019.

Gastroenterology



Stuart Waldstreicher, MD
Director

Active Staff

- Henry Beecher, MD
- Robert Dettmer, MD
- Robin Forman Rose, MD
- Sarah Kahn, MD
- Darlene Negbenebor, MD
- Robert Plansky, MD
- William Pintauro, MD
- Neil Schamberg, MD
- Amy Smithline, MD
- Michael Tawiah, APRN*
- Stuart Waldstreicher, MD

**denotes new staff*

Major Accomplishments

- Endoscopy procedural volumes showed strong growth with increases year over year and in comparison to budget.
- The open access colonoscopy program at the Endoscopy Center at our Tully Health Center was launched in 2019. It provides pre-screening without a pre-procedural visit to a gastroenterologist for healthy patients and continues to attract increasing numbers of patients.
- Dr. Paul Gaglio, an advanced liver disease and transplantation specialist from Columbia University Medical Center, joined the division and the Medical Staff and provides hepatology consultations monthly at the 292 Long Ridge Road office.
- Dr. Amy Smithline is on the team of Stamford Health's newly launched Heartburn, Reflux & Esophageal Specialty Center.

General Internal Medicine



Craig Olin, MD
Director

Active Staff

- Rohit Bhalla, MD, MPH
- Vipulkumar Bhalodiya, MD
- James Bivona, MD
- Neil Boside, MD
- Susan Collins, MD
- Amanda Collins-Baine, MD
- Joseph Costanzo, MD
- Carolyn Couture, MD
- Debra Daunt, MD
- Dhaval Desai, MD
- Maria DiGiovanni, MD
- Bryan Dorf, DO
- James Dorr, MD
- Neil Dreyer, MD
- Deena Ebright, MD
- Nicholas Fiebach, MD
- Michael Fusco, MD
- Vernetta Gallop, MD
- Sarah Gamble, DO
- William Giesen, MD
- Robert Goldsmith, MD
- Laurie Gordon, MD
- Danielle Greenman, MD
- Brian Hennessy, MD
- Kirsten Hohmann, MD
- Forugh Homayounrooz, MD
- Nina Inamdar, MD
- Shara Israel, MD
- Radhika Jasthi, MD
- Sharon Kiely, MD
- Yumi Koh, DO, MPH
- Tulin Koparan, MD
- Jeremiah Lewis, MD*
- Robert Lindberg, MD
- Ted Listokin, MD
- Sandra Lithgow, MD
- Joann Lodescar, MD*
- David Marks, MD
- Katharine Meyers, MD, MPH
- Charles Miner III, MD
- Marcelyn Molloy, MD
- Caleb Moore, MD
- Lynn Morris, MD
- Philip Negus, MD
- Santi Neuberger, MD
- Rebecca Newman, MD*
- Craig Olin, MD
- Sanjay Patel, MD
- David Radin, MD
- Maria Restrepo, MD
- Remi Rosenberg, MD
- Sara Seidelmann, MD*
- Anna Shender, DO
- Jasdeep Sidana, MD*
- Brianna Siegel, MD
- Lee Silva, MD
- Maja Simic, MD
- Andrea Shahum, MD, PhD*
- Frederick Slogoff, MD
- Richard Slutsky, MD
- Maura Sparks, MD
- Edra Stern, MD
- Cathrine Troy, MD
- Inga Tuluca, MD
- Shira Vadel, MD
- Andrew Wong, MD
- Thomas Xu, MD
- Lu Yu, MD
- Michael Zucker, MD

**denotes new staff*

Department of Medicine

General Internal Medicine continued

Major Accomplishments

- This year marks the inaugural year for the Division of General Internal Medicine. At inception, this division constitutes the largest division within the Department of Medicine, with nearly 70 members.
- Dr. Shara Israel received the Primary Care Leadership Award from the Connecticut Center for Primary Care.

Current Initiatives

- New initiatives to involve division members in structured teaching and mentorship of the Internal Medicine House Staff include pilot programs of rotating residents through the offices of primary care physicians.
- One of our current third-year residents will begin practice as a primary care physician in New Canaan next year, the first to join the medical staff in over a decade.
- Opportunities for physicians to precept residents in the Optimus Clinic will be available shortly.

Geriatrics



Allison B. Ostroff
Director

Active Staff

- Rodrigo Acosta, MD
 - Rohit Bhalla, MD
 - Doreen Chimblo, APRN
 - Shannon DeSimone, APRN*
 - Nichole Ferreira, APRN
 - Alison McElhone, MD *
 - Tzivia Moreen, MD
 - Santi Neuberger, MD
 - Allison B. Ostroff, MD
 - Monika Tello, APRN
- *denotes new staff*

Major Accomplishments

- The division experienced growth of 83% in the past year.
- A new Geriatric Assessment Center opened in Wilton, joining the other two centers in Greenwich and in Stamford.



Geriatrics continued

- The Dementia Volunteer program, a partnership between Stamford Health and the Alzheimer's Association, won the Planetree Global Person-Centered Innovation Award.
- The Geriatric Emergency Medicine Program (GEMI) has grown robustly and this multidisciplinary approach is able to keep many of the frailest geriatric patients at home safely and connect them with outpatient geriatrics for a full multidisciplinary assessment.

Current Initiatives

- Our delirium initiative is evolving with nurse-led interventions and a plan for exploring HELP (Hospital Elder Life Program).
- Surgery and Geriatrics will be partnering to optimize the peri-operative risk of geriatric patients.

Hospitalist Medicine



Maher Madhoun, MD
Director



Paul Huang, MD
Associate Director

Active Staff

- Seun Adeyemi-Jones, MD
- Linda Amah, MD*
- Daniel Bal, MD*
- Jennifer Bendl, DO
- Iulian Benetato, MD
- Alfred Bircaj, MD
- Brett Carroll, MD*
- Sasha Cobotic, MD
- Celeste Cox-Baldwin, MD*
- Resul Dalipi, MD
- Dhaval Desai, MD*
- Satish Deshpande, MD
- Jenifer Drummond, MD
- Juan Estupinan-Beltran, MD
- Betty Exume, PA
- Anahita Fallahi, MD

Hospitalist Medicine continued

- Christiana Famodimu, MD
- Ilya Fatakhov, MD
- Mary Fedor, MD
- Tatjana Gavrancic, MD
- Helena Gerner, APRN*
- Paul Huang, MD
- Clive Johnson, DO
- Chinenye Kalu, APRN
- Nayra Labrecque, PA
- Maher Madhoun, MD
- Hiren Mody, MD
- Girija Narayanaswamy, MD
- Sherry Ng, MD*
- Aye Omoruyi, PA
- Chinyelu Oraedu, MD
- Kwen Ortega-Lingiah, MD
- Alka Popli, MD
- Kuntal Pujara, MD*
- Miroslav Radulovic, MD
- Praveen Reddy, MD
- Rolando Santos, MD
- Ilnaz Salehi, MD
- Christina Suh, DO
- Peter Tenicki, MD
- Phi Tran, DO
- Daniela Vezmar, MD*
- Litchia Weber, MD

**denotes new staff*

Major Accomplishments

- Clinical productivity and patient lengths of stay continue to be highly favorable in relation to national benchmarks.
- The Pre-Surgical Optimization Program, also known as the POP Clinic, has revolutionized how patients are evaluated and optimized in the pre-op setting. This year almost all patients undergoing inpatient surgery were evaluated in this program, based at the Stamford Health Tully Health Center, and OR cancellation rates have approached 0% since the initiation of the program.
- A group of teaching hospitalists completed a longitudinal faculty development course in clinical teaching.
- Seven new hospitalists were added to the group.
- Dr. Estupinan-Beltran was voted Hospitalist Attending of the Year by the Medicine residents.

Department of Medicine

Infectious Diseases



Michael F. Parry, MD
Director

Active Staff

- Debra Adler-Klein, MD
- Fernando Barahona, MD
- Ralph Cipriani, MD
- Brenice Duroseau, APRN
- Bibek Koirala, MD
- Gavin McLeod, MD
- Michael Parry, MD
- Maher Madhoun, MD
- Asha Shah, MD, MS
- Lynda Streett, MD
- James Sabetta, MD

Major Accomplishments

- Dr. Asha Shah was promoted to Associate Division Director with major responsibilities for hospital epidemiology and antibiotic stewardship, and Dr. Streett assumed the position of Medical Director of Employee Health and the HIV program.
- Leading a multidisciplinary effort in cooperation with the Infection Prevention team, we have achieved the lowest hospital acquired infection rate in 20 years, and with aggressive testing and antimicrobial stewardship efforts, we have achieved the lowest C. difficile rate in 14 years.
- HIV clinic services through the adult immunology clinic provided care for up to 100 individuals, working with our community partner, Stamford CARES, and partially supported by a Federal Ryan White Grant award.
- Members of the division received the following awards:
 - United Hospital Fund Tribute to Excellence in Health Care, recognizing Quality Improvement Champions Award. May 6, 2019 to Dr. Michael Parry
 - President's Award for Young Professional for Achievement in Medicine, The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)-Connecticut to Dr. Asha Shah
 - Stamford Hospital House Staff Award, Specialty Attending of the Year to Dr. Bibek Koirala

Current Initiatives

- The division is involved in a multi-medical center environmental study to evaluate the effectiveness of terminal room cleaning in the prevention of hospital-acquired infections, and is also an active participant in the PAICAP (Preventing Avoidable Infectious Complications by Adjusting Payment) study with Harvard Medical School and the Sentinel Laboratory RSV and Influenza Surveillance Program with the CDC.

Medical Oncology and Hematology



Paul Weinstein, MD
Director

Active Staff

- Anne Angevine, MD
- Michael Bar, MD
- Salvatore DelPrete, MD
- Anthony Gulati, MD
- K.M. Steve Lo, MD
- Jamie Stratton, MD
- Paul Weinstein, MD
- Laura O'Keefe, APRN
- Amanda Peyser, APRN *
- Janis Smith, APRN
- Mae Jauk, APRN
- Lindsay Naughton, APRN
- Deanna Xistris, APRN

**denotes new staff*

Major Accomplishments

- The Outpatient Palliative Care Program was launched under the direction of Amanda Peyser.
- A Survivorship Program was initiated under the direction of Dr. Anne Angevine, Mae Jauk and Deanna Xistris.
- Dr. Paul Weinstein received the Israel Cancer Research Foundation Outstanding Physician award.

Nephrology



Eric Y. Brown, MD
Director

Active Staff

- Revekka Babayev, MD
- Eric Brown, MD
- Brenda Chan, MD
- John Fitzgibbons, MD
- William Hines, MD
- Nazanine F. Khairkhah, MD

Major Accomplishments

- A second dialysis unit will be opening soon.
- The Nephrology office will move to larger space and expand the home dialysis program.
- The division has ongoing participation in the CURE GN Study, a large multi-center, long-term observational study of patients with Nephrotic Syndrome and other glomerular diseases.
- We are involved in two new clinical research projects—a clinical trial of a hypoxia inducible factor inhibitor for anemia, and a new medication to treat metabolic acidosis.

Neurology



Louise Resor, MD
Director

Active Staff

- Daniel Brooks, MD
- Sarah Buckingham, MD
- Derek Cheng, MD
- David Hahn, MD
- Eric Kung, MD
- Mark Landreneau, MD*
- Charisse Litchman, MD
- Louise Resor, MD
- Evangelos Xistris, MD

**denotes new staff*

Major Accomplishments

- Our stroke department was recently recertified by the Joint Commission as an Advanced Primary Stroke Center. We received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get with The Guidelines® Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award.
- With the addition of neuro-interventionalist Dr. Todd Miller of Radiology we can offer thrombectomy to acute stroke victims. We are applying for special designation as a thrombectomy capable primary stroke center.
- Dr. Mark Landreneau joined the staff as a neurohospitalist and stroke specialist so that we now have three stroke fellowship trained neurohospitalists to provide expert in- and outpatient care for patients with cerebrovascular disease.
- Under Dr. Derek Cheng's direction, we have increased our capability to perform long-term ambulatory EEGs and video-EEGs to monitor in- and outpatients with known seizures, undiagnosed paroxysmal episodes and altered mental status.

Department of Medicine

Pain Management



Ofer M. Wellisch, MD
Director

Active Staff

- Aris Barbadimos, MD
- Vincent Carlisi, MD
- Julie Huang-Lionnet, MD
- Joseph Hung, MD
- Andrew Illig, DO
- Eric Kung, MD
- Joleigh Parisot, APRN *
- Igor Turok, MD
- Ofer Wellisch, MD
- Christian Whitney, MD
- Yuting Xiong, MD
- Si Zhang, DO

**denotes new staff*

Major Accomplishments

- The division experienced substantial year-over-year growth in Outpatient Pain Center encounters and OR procedures.
- We developed new clinical programs, including online criteria for preoperative consultation in the Pain Center; standard preoperative consultation for all Median Arcuate Ligament Syndrome (MALS) patients; and the Headaches in Pregnancy program.
- The division received the MRC Challenge Grant (NACCHO), a national grant for volunteers to educate the community in appropriate use of naloxone.

Current Initiatives

- We are participating in clinical trials for the Bioness StimRouter® Registration study (an implantable neuromodulation device to treat chronic peripheral nerve pain).

Palliative Care



Sherry Ng, MD
Director

Active Staff

- Sherry Ng MD
- Doreen B. Chimblo, APRN
- Maria Rivera, APRN
- Josephine Parisot, APRN

Major Accomplishments

- For the fourth year in a row, the Palliative Care team surpassed our national peers in throughput and efficiency despite a smaller department size, and continues to increase patient and family satisfaction, improve quality of life, help to extend patient survival and provide significant medical cost savings.
- The Palliative Care team joined the GEMI program that includes a screening tool to generate palliative care consults for elderly patients with chronic illness to reduce their readmission rate and repeat ER visits.
- We provided precepting in the Susan Flynn Oncology Nurse Fellowship Program.
- Doreen Chimblo completed credentialing for Advanced Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse (ACHPN).

Pulmonary/Critical Care/Sleep Division



Paul Sachs, MD
Director

Active Staff

- Michael Bernstein, MD
- Caroline Gulati, MD
- James Krinsley, MD
- Frantz Hastrup, MD*
- Anna Moniodis, MD
- Desh Nandedkar, MD
- Alex Ortega, MD
- Dominic Roca, MD, PhD
- Paul Sachs, MD

Ancillary Staff

- Matthias Ahiokhai, PA (Intensive Care Unit)*
- Arlene Butler, APRN (Sleep)
- Karolyn Chang, RPA-C (Sleep)
- Bethany Gleason, APRN (Intensive Care Unit)
- Christopher Malynowski, PA-C (Intensive Care Unit)*
- Lizabeth Sachs, APRN (Allergy and Pulmonary)
- Jennifer Teichman, APRN (Intensive Care Unit)

*denotes new staff

Major Accomplishments

Pulmonary

- New ventilators were installed throughout the hospital, along with high-flow nasal cannulas for pediatric patients to avoid intubations.
- The Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program received National Recertification from the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR).
- Norwalk Community College honored Respiratory Therapist Mansoor Arthur, RRT, with its Preceptor of the Year Award.
- Stamford Hospital was selected as a site for Biodesix ORACLE Registry Trial for pulmonary nodule risk stratification.

Critical Care

- We revised our infusion protocols for sedatives and vasoactive medications and earned plaudits from regulatory agencies (The Joint Commission and CT Department of Public Health).
- We implemented the Phoenix software application for automated data aggregation and reporting.

Sleep Medicine

- New software was implemented to enable the performance of more complex sleep studies.
- We implemented outpatient overnight oximetry studies.
- We expanded our geographic footprint to provide Sleep Medicine services in Wilton.

Department of Medicine

Rehabilitation Medicine



Edwin F. Richter III, MD
Director

Active Staff

- Arghiris Barbadimos, MD
- Carolyn Casino, MD
- Andrew Illig, MD
- Stephen Massimi, MD
- Edwin Richter, MD
- Daniel Southern, MD
- David Walshin, MD
- Yuting Xiong, MD
- Jun Xu, MD
- Po Xu, MD

**denotes new staff*

Major Accomplishments

- Members of the staff recognized as Top Doctors by Castle Connolly include Dr. Arghiris Barbadimos and Dr. Edwin Richter.

Current Initiatives

- Dr. Jun Xu serves as president of Africa Cries Out, a non-profit organization which provides assistance with education, healthcare and nutrition to the people of Senegal and Gineah Bissau.
- The Van Munching Rehabilitation Unit is in the process of seeking stroke certification through The Joint Commission.

Rheumatology



Tomas Vietorisz, MD
Director

Active Staff

- Erik Beger, MD
- Anastasia Slobodnick, MD*
- Sharon Karp, MD
- Hana Hulinska, MD
- Tomas Vietorisz, MD

**denotes new staff*

Major Accomplishments

- Dr. Sharon Karp was included in *Connecticut Magazine's* 2019 Top Docs.
- Dr. Tom Vietorisz and Dr. Sharon Karp were included in Castle Connolly's 2019 Top Doctors.
- The division sees patients in Stamford, Greenwich and Norwalk, and continues its availability to underserved populations in the Stamford community through its Optimus specialty clinic and at Stamford Hospital.
- The division's newest member, Dr. Anastasia Slobodnick, began seeing patients in Stamford Health Medical Group practices at the Holly Hill Greenwich office and 292 Long Ridge Road Stamford office.

Internal Medicine Residency Program



Forugh Homayounrooz, MD
Director

House Staff

- PGYI-1
 - Joseph Bahgat, MD*
 - Mariana Chang, MD*
 - Shehrose Chaudry, MD*
 - Krista Dionne, MD*
 - Valeria Grijalva, MD*
 - Mahta Salehi, MD*
 - Anna Stransky, MD*
 - Anita Gade, MD*
- PGY-2
 - Camila Heluey-Rodrigues, MD
 - Lily Hsu, MD
 - Nneka Nwachukwu, MD
 - Leonardo Oliveira, MD
 - Estela Rodriguez Alonso, MD
 - Andrey Vavrenyuk, MD
- PGY-3
 - Ozheh Aghdasi, MD
 - Afshan Ahmed, MD
 - Ryan Bartscherer, MD
 - Sunanda Kotapuri, MD
 - Yesha Gandhi, MD
 - Mohamed Zakarya, MD

**denotes new staff*

Key Faculty

- Forugh Homayounrooz, MD, Program Director
- Rebecca Newman, MD,* Associate Program Director
- Maher Madhoun, MD, Assistant Program Director
- Paul Huang, MD, Assistant Program Director
- Michael Bernstein, MD, Assistant Program Director
- John Fitzgibbons, MD, Senior Faculty

**denotes new staff*

Major Accomplishments

- The pass rate on the ABIM certifying examination by 2019 graduates was 100%.
- The ACGME resident survey in 2019 showed major improvement in all domains, meeting or exceeding national means.
- Residents had eight oral or poster presentations at national meetings.
- Residents presented 11 posters at the Connecticut ACP meeting in October 2018.
- Residents presented 35 posters at the 4th Annual Stamford Hospital Research Day, and two oral presentations; two awards were received, one each for oral and poster presentations.
- Residents and faculty were authors on three peer-reviewed publications.

Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology



Scott Chudnoff, MD

Chair, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

A Letter From The Chair *The Year in Review*

With barely time to catch our breath, this year seems to have flown by. Our Department has been in constant motion, and the energy is palpable. Striving to fulfill Stamford Health's vision of "reimagining healing in every way, distinguishing ourselves as the most trusted healthcare partner for the communities we serve," we have taken to heart what 'reimagining' and 'community' means to us so that we can deliver on being 'trusted'.

Reimagining healing has been driving many of the initiatives that the Department has been actively engaged in. The Women's Specialty Center, which opened this February, is founded specifically on this aim. The Center was designed to account for the many needs of our patients and physicians, developing programs and resources that will assist our physicians to continue elevating the levels of care our patients have access to at Stamford Health. Taking a patient-centered approach, its many programs utilize an interdisciplinary model for providing care. One of our newest additions to the Center has been our Pelvic Floor Physical Therapist, putting us at the forefront of health systems addressing women's pelvic health by offering a service rarely available within the region. Recognizing the increasing complexities of healthcare delivery in the U.S., the need to provide patients with easy access was integral to the design. This approach has clearly resounded with our community as we have seen our 10,000th visit for all the programs at the Women's Specialty Center since opening our doors.

We have also been addressing our community needs, in a variety of approaches. We recently began our capital campaign for renovations of the Whittingham Pavilion. Whittingham has been one of the jewels of the Stamford Health system where women, infants and children have been receiving exceptional care for the last 18 years. As with all highly utilized structures, the need to update and renovate has come. However, we recognized the opportunity to not just renovate, but improve the overall experience that can be delivered to our patients and physicians. A group of physicians and community members has been assembled to provide recommendations and feedback so that our physical building is as exceptional as the care being delivered.

We have also been looking at utilization of technology to reach our broader community. One of our initiatives has been working with the Girl Scouts of Connecticut to help develop a girls' health app. Combining the resources of Stamford Health's medical experts with these innovative, young female leaders has led to the creation of an outstanding team to help improve the health and wellness of these young women. We have also been thinking about community from a more global perspective, realizing we have expertise to share with our global community. This past year, Drs. Patrick Cahill, Elena Ratner, Gad Lavy, Laura Gilroy and Anna Dukhovich have had opportunities to provide medical services to underserved communities in countries such as Ecuador, Honduras, Haiti and China.

While we have been spending a significant amount of time looking to our greater communities, we have also been focusing on our internal community. Recognizing the needs of our providers, we have begun a variety of wellness initiatives to help care for

Letter From The Chair continued

our caregivers. Providing organized yoga sessions, spin classes and meditation are just a few of the many offerings to help support our providers.

Being a trusted partner in health requires that we provide consistent, reliable, safe care – all the time and every time – and we have been delivering on this. Many of our initiatives in safety and quality have focused on just these areas. The creation of a variety of protocols, simulations and other trainings have allowed us to demonstrate continued improvement in our quality metrics such as reduced infections and Cesarean-section rates. These quality initiatives combined with our caring professionals has allowed Stamford Health to continuously score well above the national average on our HCAHPS scores. Patients are appreciating the services provided to them and they are letting us know with comments like: “Wonderful all around,” “Loved the nursing staff and of course my OB. They all took such great care of me and made sure I was comfortable and well cared for.”

I’m proud to be a part of this team as we continue our journey toward being the most trusted.

Active Staff

- Elisabeth Aronow, MD
- Masoud Azodi, MD
- Gary Besser, MD
- Michael Blotner, MD
- Paul Bobby, MD
- Monica Brito, MD
- Hyacinth Browne, MD
- Patrick Cahill, DO
- Scott Chudnoff, MD
- Daniel Cibulsky, MD
- Melindy Ciulla, MD
- Sara Coca, MD
- Corinne de Cholnoky, MD
- Lisa Dishongh, MD
- Joel Evans, MD
- Leonard Ferrucci, MD
- Vito Ferrucci, MD
- Carol Fucigna, MD
- Stephen Gallousis, MD
- Robert Gennaro, MD
- Shieva Ghofrany, MD
- Frances Ginsburg, MD
- Stephanie Goldpin, MD
- Herbert Gretz, MD
- George Heading, MD
- Brian Hines, MD
- Astrid Hoffmann-Olsen, MD
- Gloria Huang, MD
- Joshua Hurwitz, MD
- Edward Jacobson, MD
- Sarah Kim, MD
- Chi-Son Kim, MD*
- Irene Komarynsky, MD
- Kiger Lau, MD, MPH*
- Gad Lavy, MD
- Mark Leondires, MD
- Silvio Mandara, MD
- Laura Meyer, MD
- Lindsey Michel, MD*
- Nora Miller, MD
- Elaine Morganelli, MD
- John Morris, MD
- Cynthia Murdock, MD
- Karen Nishida, MD
- Eva Olah, MD
- Antonios Panagiotakis, DO
- Setul Pardanani, MD
- Janine Popot, MD
- Elena Ratner, MD
- Spencer Richlin, MD
- Katherine Sandhu, MD
- Brian Sheets, DO
- Tracy Shevell, MD
- Dan-Arin Silasi, MD
- Barrie Suskin, MD
- Russell Turk, MD
- Richard Viscarello, MD
- David Weinstein, MD
- Catherine Wilkes, MD
- Barry Witt, MD

**denotes new staff*

Major Accomplishments

- We opened the Women’s Specialty Center with the launch of the following programs:
 - Women’s Headache Program
 - Pelvic Floor Physical Therapy
 - Complex Contraception and Family Planning Program
 - Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology
 - Heart Disease in Pregnancy Program
 - Anesthesia Consultation Program
 - NICU Lactation Consultation Program
- Dr. Patrick Cahill was awarded the Father Ruffin Compassionate Care Award from The Diocese of Bridgeport.
- Hannah Shakartzi was awarded the 1st Annual Frances Ginsburg Alumni Association Award.
- The Department received the Ryan Residency Training Grant and the Risk Management Grant for Team Training.
- We received approval of the Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery Fellowship by the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists.
- We onboarded the first minimally invasive gynecologic surgery Fellow.
- We expanded the Division of Genetics to incorporate cancer genetics.
- We initiated an OBGYN Hospitalist Program and introduced our first Hospitalists.

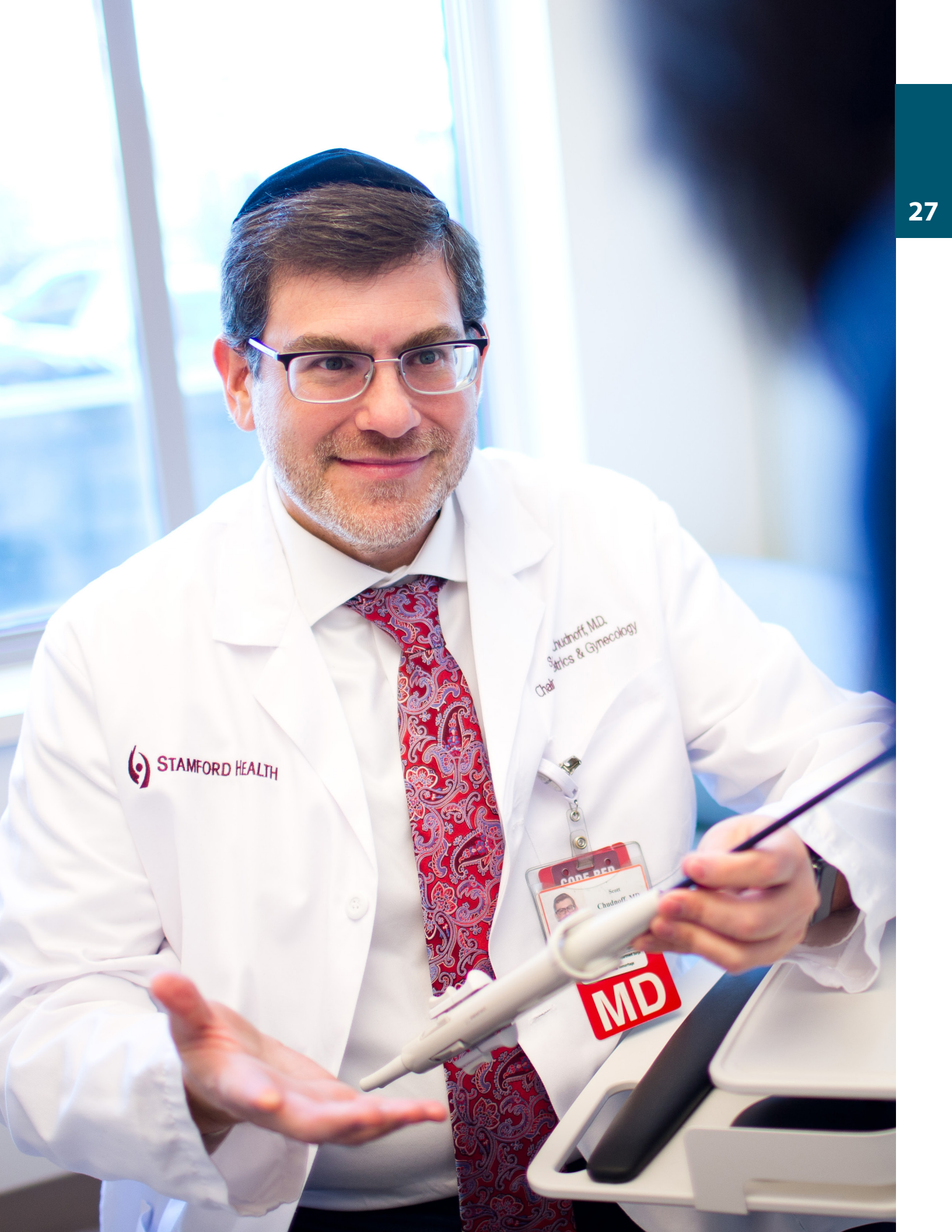
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

Major Accomplishments continued

- Our ultrasound unit received the highest level of accreditation from the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine. In addition to routine gynecologic and obstetric scanning and detailed obstetric imaging, we obtained a new accreditation in 3D gynecologic imaging, which will allow us to expand GYN imaging in scans to include saline infusion sonograms and pelvic floor imaging.
- We reported a zero rate of hysterectomy infections with creation of our Hysterectomy Surgical Site Infection Bundle.
- We performed the first procedure in the nation using the Sonata® system to treat uterine fibroids.
- We achieved HCAHPS scores that consistently exceeded the national average. Our scores for communication with nurses and communication with doctors were 98% when the national average is 80 and 81% respectively. In terms of communication about medications, our score was 95% when the national average was just 66%. Regarding discharge information, response of hospital staff and care transitions, our scores were 91.2%, 85.8% and 76.6% where the national averages were 87%, 70% and 53% respectively.

Current Initiatives

- We will be continuing our expansion of programs at the Women's Specialty Center. This includes:
 - Additional recruitment of a pelvic floor physical therapist, psychiatrist, social worker and nutritionist
 - Addition of Integrative Medicine
 - Creation of the 4th trimester program to address postpartum women's bio-psycho-social concerns
- We look to increase the number of residency positions this year.
- We will continue to develop care bundles to reduce risk.
- We will recruit a Director of Labor and Delivery.
- We look to expand the OBGYN Hospitalist Program.



Department of Orthopedic Surgery



Charles Cornell, MD
Chair, Department of Orthopedic Surgery

A Letter From The Chair *The Year in Review*

For the Department of Orthopedic Surgery this year marks the third year of the collaboration between Hospital for Special Surgery and Stamford Health. In this past year the collaboration has become firmly established with growth in both the volume and scope of our clinical program. Hospital for Special Surgery has for the tenth straight year been rated as the number one hospital for orthopedic care in the United States by *US News and World Report*. In Stamford we are leveraging that reputation to become the most trusted provider of musculoskeletal care in Southwestern Connecticut.

We are delighted that John Finger has joined us as a Senior Vice President of Regional Markets at Hospital for Special Surgery. He has assumed the lead administrative role for the HSS Collaborative team. We have added highly acclaimed surgeons specializing in trauma as well as foot and ankle and shoulder to add to our growing joint replacement, sports and spine services. We have recruited an outstanding group of highly experienced physician assistants to provide coverage of our trauma service and emergency room as well as our inpatient floors.

We continue to modify our clinical pathways to standardize and optimize the care of our patients. We support the Preoperative Optimization Program (POP) that provides pre-operative assessment and education of patients scheduled for elective, inpatient admission. Through this program we hope to assure patients that they are optimized for surgery and that their individual needs have been addressed during our pre-operative planning. The POP program includes a comprehensive patient education program that has helped us prevent unanticipated surgical cancellations and lowered our length of stay. Pre-operative screening for staphylococcus and MRSA carrier status has allowed us to identify patients at higher risk for infection leading to an aggressive, pre-operative decontamination protocol.

We have put in place routines that allow us to promptly communicate with the community of primary care physicians, allowing us to become better informed regarding our patients. We are closely monitoring our patient experience via the Press Ganey Survey. Our goal is to ensure that one hundred percent of our patients view their hospital experience positively and would willingly recommend us to their friends and family. From recent survey results we can report that we are close to achieving that goal. We hope that as the word spreads of our success that we will become the most trusted provide of musculoskeletal care.

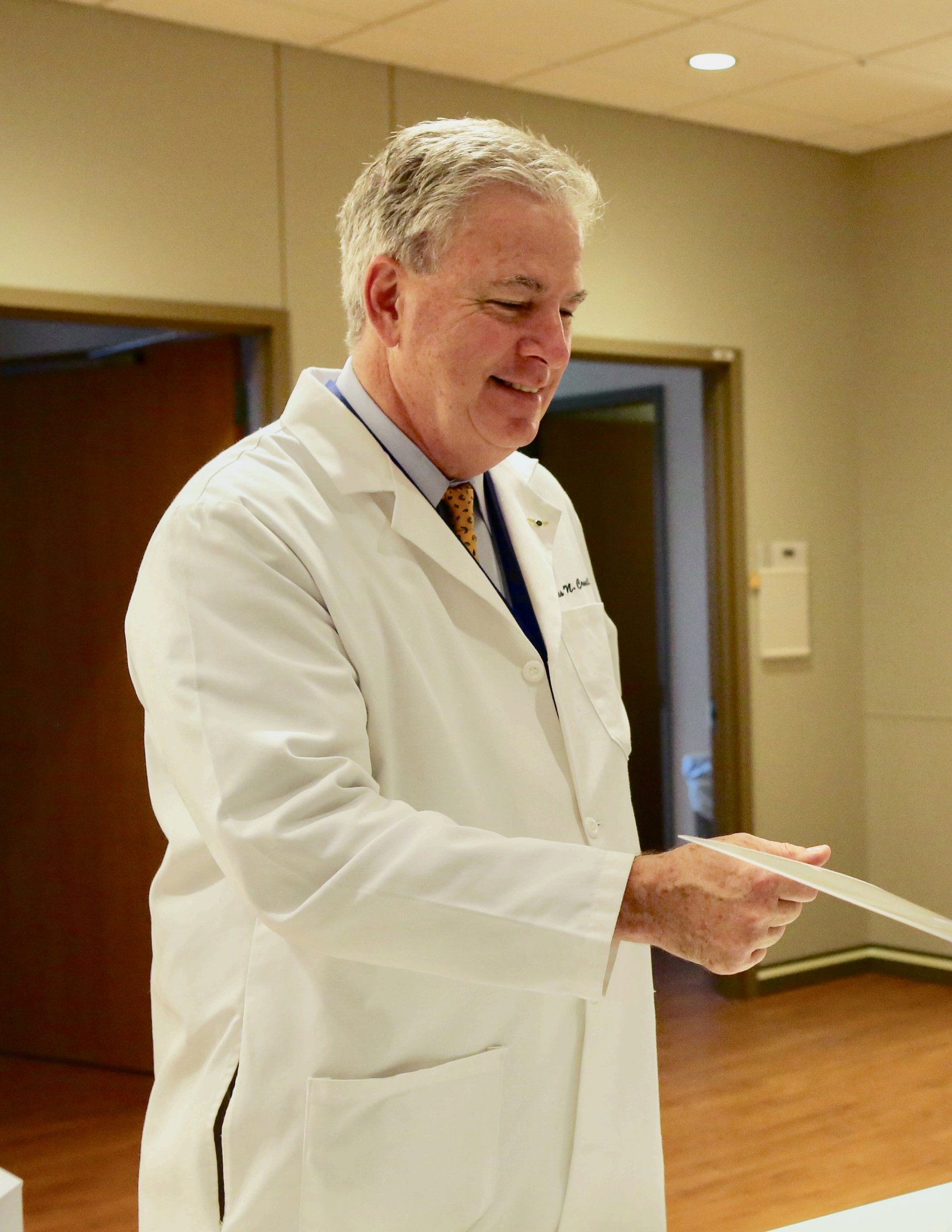
Active Staff

- David Asprinio, MD
- John Awad, MD
- Theodore Blaine, MD
- Adam Brodsky, MD
- Jeffrey Brooks, MD
- Russell Cavallo, MD
- Elizabeth Cody, MD
- Charles Cornell, MD
- Robert Cristofaro, MD
- Joseph D'Amico, MD
- Constantine Demetracopoulos, MD
- John Dowdle, MD
- Alex Gitelman, MD
- Andrew Grose, MD*
- Andrew Haas, MD
- Jo Hannafin, MD, PhD
- Peter Hughes, MD
- Sravisht Lyer, MD
- Michael Kaplan, MD
- Haik Kavookjian, MD
- Richard Magill, MD
- Steven McAnany, MD
- Moira McCarthy, MD
- Alexander McLawhorn, MD, MBA
- John Nelson, MD
- Kevin Plancher, MD, MPH
- Benjamin Roye, MD, MPH
- Harvinder Sandhu, MD, MBA
- William Schmidt, MD
- Krishn Sharma, MD
- Marc Silver, MD
- Emily Slate, MD
- Karen Sutton, MD
- Rudolph Taddonio, MD
- Samuel Taylor, MD
- Craig Tifford, MD
- Allen Troy, MD
- Corinne VanBeek, MD
- Bradford Waddell, MD
- Avi Weiner, MD
- Scott Wolfe, MD
- Daniel Zelazny, MD

*denotes new staff

Major Accomplishments

- In 2019, Stamford Health was recognized by *US News and World Report* as one of the top centers for orthopedic care in Connecticut.
- The fifth floor Orthopedic Service has consistently achieved above the 90 percentile in the Press Ganey Survey for our patients' willingness to recommend us to friends and family.
- We have completed recruitment of our orthopedic trauma team of physician assistants who provide 24-hour, seven-day-a-week coverage for the tenth floor in-patient service and the Emergency Department.
- Dr. Andrew Grose joined our Department as the Director of Orthopedic Trauma. Dr. Grose comes to us from Westchester Medical Center where he was regarded as one of the top orthopedic trauma surgeons in the US. His tenure as a full-time member of our Department will help propel the trauma service reputation and position Stamford Health for achieving Level I status.
- With Dr. Andrew Grose's leadership, we have expanded our departmental CME program to include a monthly Trauma and Morbidity Conference.
- Dr. Elizabeth Cody joined our Department as a subspecialist in foot and ankle surgery. She brings considerable experience and expertise in forefoot and hindfoot reconstruction as well as management of traumatic injuries to the foot and ankle. Dr. Cody has special interest and training in total ankle arthroplasty. As such, Stamford Health can now provide this highly successful procedure to patients with degenerative and arthritic disorders of the ankle.
- We are proud to announce that Dr. Theodore Blaine will be joining the HSS-Stamford Health collaborative. Dr. Blaine is a world-renowned orthopedic surgeon specializing in the shoulder. He is a recognized expert in total shoulder arthroplasty and has a reputation for being an outstanding educator and both basic science and clinical researcher. Dr. Blaine became full time with the collaborative in October 2019.
- Dr. Brad Waddell was named the Chair of the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons Young Arthroplasty Committee and was awarded best research paper at the Clinical Orthopedic Association and Louisiana Orthopedic Association 2019 annual meetings.
- Dr. Andrew Grose was awarded the 2019 Andrew Swanson Award by the Hospital for Special Surgery. This award, celebrates the life and accomplishments of Andrew Swanson, MD, and is given yearly to an HSS alumnus that has excelled in humanitarian efforts.
- Dr. Corrine VanBeek has become a member of the Annual Meeting Committee of the American Shoulder and Elbow Society.
- Dr. Karen Sutton has been named the Chief Medical Officer for World Lacrosse. She has become the Team Physician for Greenwich Country Day School. Additionally, she has been accepted to the American Shoulder and Elbow Society and serves in the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons Womens' Health Advisory Board as well as the Council on Research and Quality.
- Dr. Jeffery Brooks was appointed as an examiner for the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery.
- Dr. Sam Taylor begins his fifth season as team orthopedic surgeon for the New York Giants.
- Our nurses have continued to work towards certification in orthopedic surgery to advance nursing practice within our Department. Three of our operating room staff achieved their CNOR certification. They include Katalin Muglio, Fayoke Fatade and Cheryl Rizza. Five of our floor nurses have achieved their ONC certification. They include Diana Harris, Nancy Pan, Maria Perez, Catherine Tarzia and Molly McCarthy.





SBAR

SITUATION
Patient Name: [Handwritten Name]
Room: [Handwritten Room Number]
Admission Date: [Handwritten Date]
Admission Time: [Handwritten Time]

BACKGROUND
[Handwritten text describing patient history and current status]

ASSESSMENT
[Handwritten text describing patient's current condition and vital signs]

RECOMMENDATION
[Handwritten text describing recommended actions and follow-up]

Department of Pathology



Robert C. Babkowski, MD, MMM, FCAP

Chair, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine & Laboratory Medical Director

A Letter From The Chair *The Year in Review*

2019 was a very difficult year for our Department due to multiple staff tragedies. On Saturday, February 16, our newly hired Laboratory Administrative Director suffered a head-on motor vehicle accident in Easton, CT after one month on the job. Suffering severe spine, pelvic, abdominal and leg trauma and prolonged hospitalization, she is now a paraplegic and unable to return to work. In April, one of our young female Laboratory Scientists developed sudden liver failure and died, leaving behind two young daughters. In June, one of our senior male Laboratory Scientists who worked at the Lab for 25 years died unexpectedly from sepsis. The Lab has been shaken to the core by these tragedies, but we have persevered with support from Pastoral Care, Stamford Health leadership, and one other. The role of Interim Laboratory Director was filled by Melanie Danisi, who is Stamford Health's Executive Director of Radiology. She has done a superb job with all the section supervisors and staff and has stepped up to provide leadership in time of crisis. Laboratory leadership also stepped up – and our organization is truly fortunate to have Stacey Deblasio, Operations Manager; Selma Salter, Microbiology Manager; Ajay Soni, Core Lab (Hematology and Chemistry) Manager; Eva Sizensky, Blood Bank Manager; Nicole Barnes, Central Processing and Phlebotomy Manager; Grace Valenzano, Surgical Pathology/Histology/Cytology Manager; Sheri Gombos, Point-of-Care and Compliance Manager; Alan Mitchel, LIS Supervisor; and Brian Alonza, Bennett Cancer Center Lab Supervisor.

Together in 2019 we faced staff tragedies, chronic staffing shortage, unexpected legislative and compliance scrutiny, and we still managed to provide exceptional laboratory services to our patients and physicians. I am once again reminded that it is not just cutting-edge technology in the laboratory that makes a laboratory “great” – but the people who toil daily in anonymity and in face of adversity to provide the laboratory data upon which all patient care depends. And for all of them – I am truly grateful.

There is light at the end of the tunnel. We recruited a new Laboratory Administrative Director who begins in December and we will end 2019 fully staffed in all laboratory sections.

The adversity we faced in 2019 has made us more cohesive and appreciative of one another. And we have not lost our professionalism and focus on patient care. We know that physicians and patients depend on us to provide timely and accurate data upon which medical decision-making rests, and it is this trust that we cannot and do not take for granted.

Active Staff

- Robert C. Babkowski, MD, MMM, FCAP – *Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medical Director*
- Raymond A. Baer, MD, FCAP – *Director of Clinical Pathology, Blood Bank and Transfusion Service*
- Tal Oren, MD, PhD, FCAP – *Director of Hematology and Hematopathology*
- Augusto H. Podesta, MD, FCAP – *Staff Pathologist*
- Elgida R. Volpicelli, MD, FCAP – *Director of Surgical Pathology and Dermatopathology*
- Bo Xu, MD, PhD, FCAP – *Director of Cytopathology and Molecular Pathology*

Major Accomplishments

Core Lab (Hematology and Clinical Chemistry)

- A new Sysmex XN-9100 System for CBC, Reticulocytes and Body fluid testing was installed and went live in April 2019.
- The Chemistry section received Six Sigma certification from Westgard.
- We replaced the automated line specimen storage module.
- Two new Medical Technologists were hired for the Core Laboratory. One has been trained and another is currently finishing training.

Clinical Microbiology

- We went live with the Cepheid Infinity for Molecular Microbiology assays (Influenza/RSV, C.difficile, MRSA, SA Nasal Complete, Carba R/MDR organisms, TB/Rifampin). This allows for the expansion of our current molecular test menu and enhances turnaround time (TAT) with automated front-loading along with full interface capabilities.
- We had two “great catch” wins for Microbiology (identifying cryptococcus meningitis and malaria).

Blood Bank & Transfusion Services

- We implemented the new Bio-Rad IH-1000 Blood Analyzer and Manual IH Reader. The IH-1000 is a high-throughput random access instrument. It is the perfect choice for our workflow, a fully automated walk-away system that is easy to use and has a volume capacity of 180 samples.
- We transitioned from New York Blood Center to the American Red Cross as the contracted blood supplier for Stamford Health.

Surgical Pathology, Cytology, Histology

- We successfully completed our state inspection at our Tully Health Center Lab.
- We hired Afredita Dushi, a second Cytology Prep Tech.
- We updated our antibody library in Immunohistochemistry, enabling us to better categorize malignancies.
- We became first in state to transition from hTert to Uro17 antibody on urine cytology to more accurately detect bladder cancer.
- We updated to two new tissue processors and two new special stain instruments to maintain our quality and TAT in surgical pathology.

Laboratory Information System

- We successfully recruited for our Laboratory Information System and the section is currently fully staffed.
- We implemented a new Hematology Track – XNIC Interface dual cell counter, slide stainer).
- We also secured new Bennett Cancer Center Analyzers – Two XN10 analyzer interfaces (table-top cell counters).
- We integrated a new ACL 750 Coagulation Analyzer.
- We secured the new instrument for type and screens, IH1000, a blood bank analyzer to replace the Tango that is being retired by Bio-rad.

Bennett Cancer Center Lab

- We completed installation, verification and implementation of two new sysmex XN-1000 instruments. This increases the volume capability of the cancer center while improving parameter accuracy.

Current Initiatives

- Rapid flu/strep testing devices have been selected for deployment in the Emergency Department and Immediate Care Center. This project will significantly enhance turn-around times for these tests as well as bring our organization into full regulatory compliance in the recording of these point-of-care test results.
- We continue to study the OptiScan high-complexity test system in ICU patients. Preparation began this year for the next phase of the study, which will allow the device to be used for clinical decision making. At this time, the device is being used for clinical research for real-time glucose testing. Plans are already underway to investigate additional tests.
- We are working to integrate personalized medicine testing through partnerships with Foundation Medicine, Biodesix, Vericyte, Interpace Diagnostics, Neogenomics, Accupath, Exact Sciences and Invitae.





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Department of Pediatrics



Gerald B. Rakos, MD, FAAP

*Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Medical Director, Cohen Children's Institute*

A Letter From The Chair *The Year in Review*

It is hard to believe that it has already been three years since the opening of the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Pediatric Emergency Department and two years since our new inpatient facility, the Cohen Children's Unit, saw its first patient. These two units along with the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) represent the hospital-based components of the Cohen Children's Institute.

Recent data, highlighted later in this report, have demonstrated substantial growth the Institute has experienced since the opening of these units. This growth is found in both patient volume as well as Stamford Health's pediatric market share. Additional survey data shows that Stamford Health is considered the most preferred provider for pediatric services in our primary and secondary service areas. All of us at Stamford Health are extremely grateful and appreciative of the increasing trust and confidence that both parents and our community of referring physicians have in our services.

Now that our Pediatric Emergency Department and Inpatient Unit are complete, our attention turns to the facilities serving the newborn service including the NICU, Well Baby Nursery as well as Maternity and Labor and Delivery. The Stamford Hospital Foundation has officially kicked off *Healing. Reimagined. The Campaign for Women and Babies*. This fundraising effort will help support the modernization of the Whittingham Pavilion. I am very pleased that The Department of Pediatrics is well represented on the Women's and Babies Campaign Committee, the group that will oversee this critically important planning and fundraising effort.

While planning for a new NICU gets underway, several new initiatives in the Division of Neonatology began this past year. The Newborn Lactation Care Program, an addition to our outpatient services, is a unique transition of care program specifically designed to meet the special needs of infants and new parents that have recently been discharged. Both mother and baby are seen by Dr. Shruti Gupta, a neonatologist who is a Certified Lactation Counselor, as well as a Lactation Consultant in our new Women's Specialty Center conveniently located in the Whittingham Pavilion.

Another initiative involves the expanded use of the two parent support rooms adjacent to the NICU. Parents of NICU infants approaching discharge will be encouraged to room in with their baby who will be monitored remotely and regularly checked by nursing staff. The goal is for parents to get more comfortable and gain confidence in taking care of their infant by themselves and thus be ready for discharge to home.

The NICU continues to maintain membership in the Vermont Oxford Network (VON) including participation in their expanded database that includes all admissions. VON is a voluntary collaboration of health professionals from over 1,000 NICUs throughout the world working together to improve neonatal care.

A new patient safety initiative, the Pediatric Early Warning Score, was started on the Cohen Children's Unit this past year. This evidence-based scoring system is designed to identify patients who are at risk of decompensation. Identifying such patients and intervening prior to any significant deterioration can be lifesaving.

Letter From The Chair continued

Given our strong growth and in order to best build on our successes, it was decided this year that the Department should develop a new strategic plan while we continue to have ongoing discussions with academic children's medical centers about potential relationships.

As we move toward 2020, we will continue to enhance existing programs while always looking for new opportunities to help our community of families and referring physicians care for our precious children. The Cohen Children's Institute's recent growth is a testament to the confidence our services have gained. We will continually strive to earn and maintain this trust with every patient encounter.

Active Staff

- Suja Abraham, MD
- Robin Abramowicz, MD
- Nicole Abramowitz, MD
- Andrews Adade, MD, MPH
- Cigdem Akman, MD
- Barbara Allen, MD
- Maura Angiello-Smith, MD
- Aniqa Anwar, MD
- Lauren Bader, MD
- Yong-Son Basta, MD
- Beckman, MD
- Karen Kathleen Berchelmann, MD
- David Berkun, MD
- Letitia Borrás, MD
- Haydee Bujman-Lancman, MD
- Ora Burstein, MD
- Alison Cass, MD
- Sofia Chiocconi, MD
- John Ciannella, MD
- Elizabeth Cipolla, MD
- Paule Couture, MD
- Gretchen Crist, MD
- Jason Davis, MD
- John Dubaz, MD
- Murray Engel, MD
- Elisabeth Fishbein, MD
- William Flynn, MD
- Scott Freedman, MD
- Jeanine Freliech, MD
- Robert Fryer, MD
- Monique Gagnon, MD
- Elena Gazzola-Kraenzlin, MD
- Lambros Geotes, MD
- Debra Gotz, MD
- Jennifer Gruen, MD
- Eva Grunberg, MD
- Shruti Gupta, MD
- Andrew Hart, MD
- Jennifer Henkind, MD
- Sharmelle Highbloom, MD
- Joseph Hufnagel, DO
- Maria Ieni, MD
- Lisa Imundo, MD*
- Saima Jafri, DO
- Patricia Jorquera, MD
- M. Vasudeva Kamath, MD
- Amy Kappelman, MD
- Janet Karpiak, MD*
- Georgette Katsetos, MD
- Timothy Kenefick, MD
- Rosemary Klenk, MD
- Arnold Korval, MD
- Elizabeth Krowitz, MD
- Necla Kudrick, MD
- Susan Lasky, DO
- Allison Levey, MD
- Dorothy Levine, MD
- Michelle Loy, MD
- Sarah Lusman, MD
- Christine Macken, MD
- Yogangi Malhotra, MD
- Maggie Malloy, MD
- Jonah Mandell, DO*
- Jeanne Marconi, MD
- Madhu Mathur, MD, MPH
- Barry Melton, MD
- Jennifer Millman, MD
- Marc Mishkin, MD
- Shahrzad Mohammadi, MD
- Michael Monaco, MD
- Alejandro Mones, MD
- Jennifer Moore, MD
- Alan Morelli, MD
- Alyssa Newman, MD
- Katherine Noble, MD
- Karen Nordberg, MD
- Maria Obaid, MD
- Elijah Paintsil, MD
- Todd Palker, MD
- Cindy Perry, MD
- Gerald Rakos, MD
- Ester Ramirez-Cepeda, MD
- Henry Rascoff, MD
- Marisa Rommeney, DO
- Lisa Rooney, MD
- Beth Rosenberg, MD
- Stella Sabile, MD
- Hossein Sadeghi, MD
- Alicia Salas, DO
- Meltem Seli, MD
- Susmita Senapati, MD
- Surekha Shenoy, MD
- Stuart Silverstein, MD
- Vicki Smetak, MD*
- Michael Snyder, MD
- Kirin Suri, MD
- Sanford Swidler, MD
- Benjamin Tsang, MD
- George Tsimoyianis, MD
- Mark Vincent, MD
- Gail Weiner, MD
- Cecile Windels, MD
- Michael Wu, MD*
- Lawrence Zemel, MD

**denotes new staff*

Major Accomplishments

- The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) received the Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award. This is the third consecutive year the NICU attained this distinction for achieving patient satisfaction scores at or above the 95th percentile for the entire year.
- We initiated the Newborn Lactation Care Program, a program specifically designed to meet the needs of new parents and infants who have recently been discharged from the NICU.
- Starting this past year, we created transition rooms, whereby parents of NICU infants approaching discharge are encouraged to room in with their baby who will be monitored remotely.
- More than 2,300 babies were born at Stamford Hospital this past year.
- Data from the Primary (PSA) and Secondary Service Areas (SSA) demonstrated the following:
 - Pediatric Emergency Department volume increased 27.9% between FY 2016 and 2019 and market share increased by 6.8% for the same period.

Department of Pediatrics

Major Accomplishments continued

- Stamford Health pediatric inpatient volume increased 42% from FY 2017 to FY 2019.
- Market share data from FY 2017 to 2018 demonstrated huge increases with the Pediatric Emergency Department and Inpatient Unit growing 6.8% and 6.6% respectively.
- In a survey of women with children in our primary and secondary service areas, Stamford Health was the most preferred pediatric provider.
 - Recent data from the National Research Corporation indicates that Stamford Health is the most preferred for pediatric services in our PSA and SSA. In fact, when the question was directed to women ages 18-64, living in households with children present, SH was preferred by nearly 33% of respondents, a full 10 percentage points higher than Yale New Haven which placed second.
- KIDS' FANS – Our nutrition and wellness program reached all third graders in the Stamford Public Schools.
- The pilot Pediatric Presurgical Optimization Program began with a subset of complex Median Arcuate Ligament Syndrome (MALS) patients.
- On the Cohen Children's Unit we initiated a Pediatric Early Warning Score, a system to identify pediatric patients at risk for clinical deterioration.
- Dr. Shari Mohammadi was named Director of the Pediatric Hospitalist program.
- Dr. John Ciannella was named Director of the Division of Neonatology.
- Dr. Sarah Lusman was named Director of Fellowship Training for the Department of Pediatrics at Columbia, and the Editor of the PREP GI Editorial Board of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Current Initiatives

- Together with the Department of Strategic Planning, the Department will develop a new strategic plan to ensure that efforts are directed to its highest needs and priorities.
- The Department will continue to pursue a long-term strategic partnership with a prominent academic children's medical center.
- Along with the Stamford Hospital Foundation, the Department will be an active participant in the *Healing Reimagined: Women and Babies Campaign* to raise funds for the modernization of the Whittingham Pavilion.
- The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit will be changing its staffing model such that neonatologists are in-house 24/7/365.
- Together with the Department of Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics will work towards increasing the hours the Pediatric Emergency Department is staffed by Pediatric specialists.
- The Department will submit an RFP to the Department of Public Health so that Stamford Health can continue the Medical Home Initiative, a grant-funded program.
- The Pediatric Presurgical Optimization Program will be expanded to include all MALS patients.
- Using the latest in simulation technology, Pediatrics and NICU nurses and physicians will continue to participate regularly in these valuable exercises.
- We will continue to recruit additional pediatric specialists for the Cohen Children's Specialty Center.



Department of Psychiatry



Draupathi Nambudiri, MD, FAPA
Chair, Department of Psychiatry

A Letter From The Chair *The Year in Review*

In the past year, the Department of Psychiatry has accomplished a great deal in its role as the major provider of patient-centered mental health assessment and treatment services for patients with acute and serious psychiatric disorders in the greater Stamford community.

The community has come to trust and rely upon the high quality of acute psychiatric care with rapid assessment and stabilization delivered on the inpatient service. As the only community hospital-based inpatient psychiatric service between the New York/Connecticut border and Norwalk, Connecticut, this service provides a vital link in the mental healthcare of those who reside in lower Fairfield County. We maintain a high caliber of service on this unit while exploring how best to serve specialty populations in the area.

The Department's approach to mental health is multidisciplinary, and our care team is sensitive and compassionate to patients and their families. Trust is a vital component in delivering safe, quality patient care. Trust is an important aspect in the patient-provider relationship. Patients are trusting physicians, APRNs and nurses to deliver safe care and provide positive patient outcomes. Trust is also critical between providers in order to run a therapeutic and efficient unit.

The patient must trust the staff with private information. Patients who are admitted to the Inpatient Psychiatry Unit are typically experiencing a psychiatric crisis. Their stories, situations, and lifestyle are often judged by society. They have often met people in their life who have let them down and betrayed their trust. The psychiatric team, including physicians, APRNs, social workers, nurses, and psych techs all play a role in the patient's mental health outcomes. Patients often are able to share more of their personal issues, medical history and life experiences with staff when they feel they are trustworthy. The Psychiatry team show they are trustworthy by active listening, being honest and truthful, being reliable, and empathetic. It is also important that the unit staff feel they can trust each other. Relationships between physicians and nurses are imperative to run a safe unit. Such trust is established through respect, integrity and open communication.

Treatment on the Inpatient Psychiatry Unit is highly individualized to the unique needs of each patient. We offer dual-diagnosis behavioral health treatment services, group and individual behavioral therapy, medical psychiatry and psychopharmacological interventions, pet therapy, music therapy, spirituality and relaxation groups are also available.

Upon discharge, patients receive a carefully constructed discharge plan and arrangements for aftercare. We invite involvement of a patient's family or significant other (with patient permission) during this process.

In addition to inpatient psychiatry service, the Department staff also provides psychiatry consultation/liaison services to the Emergency Department and Medical/Surgical floors. There is an ever-increasing demand for psychiatric evaluation services in the Emergency Department. Disorders such as delirium, behavioral difficulties associated with dementia, acute anxiety, panic, psychotic disorders, depressive states and alcohol and substance use disorders are but a few of the common difficulties which the consultation/liaison service is called upon to address.

Active Staff

- Enenge A'Bodjedi, MD
- Michael Adusei, MD
- Margaret Gorelick, APRN*
- Kenneth Graham II, MD
- Jeffrey Koffler, MD
- Christina B. Kunec, PsyD
- Dmitry Meyerovich, MD
- F. Carl Mueller, MD, MPH
- Draupathi Nambudiri, MD
- Alphonse Osinski, MD
- Julio Riascos, MD*
- Kathleen Stuart, APRN
- Gopalakrishna Upadhyaya, MD
- Sejal Vyas, PhD

*denotes new staff

Major Accomplishments

- The Department's clinical services remained busy with significant activity. We continue to see large numbers of individuals from the community who present to the Hospital's Emergency Department in need of psychiatric and substance abuse services. There was a 9.4% increase in discharge volume in FY19 (650) compared to FY18 (594). The average length of stay decreased by 11% in FY19, and the service maintained an 83% occupancy rate.
- Compared to FY18, the Medical/Surgical and Emergency Room consultation volume increased by 12.8% in FY19. There were 3,251 consults in FY19 compared with 2,883 consults in FY18. It is important to note that over the years the number of child and adolescent psychiatry cases seen by the consultation service has gone up from 177 cases in FY15 to 277 cases in FY18. In FY19, the trend continued, and we saw 273 child and adolescent psychiatry cases.
- Psychiatry core measures target patient safety, quality of care and timely transmission of clinical information to next level of care. The core measures also include compliance with screening all admissions to the Inpatient Psychiatry Unit for alcohol and substance abuse using a special screening tool. FY19 compliance for hospital-based inpatient psychiatric services (HBIPS) metabolic screening was 98% and timely transmission of transition record was 92%. Since January 2015, the Inpatient Psychiatry Unit has been participating in tobacco screening (TOB) core measures. In FY16 and FY17, we had 100% compliance and in FY18, 96% in screening patients for tobacco use. In FY19, we were able to again achieve 100% compliance with this measure. For Inpatient Psychiatry alcohol screening, the compliance score was 100% in both FY18 and FY19. 85% of patients received alcohol use intervention.
- The 30-day readmission rates decreased from 14% in FY13 to 7.72% in FY17. We were able to reduce the rate further in FY18, achieving a 6.9% rate. In FY19, the readmission rate increased to 9.5%, reflecting increased patient acuity and limited community and residential resources for patients.
- Dr. F. Carl Mueller served as Chair of the hospital-wide Physician Wellbeing Committee. He is also Vice Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Vice President of the Medical Staff.

Major Accomplishments continued

- Dr. Michael Adusei works on raising mental health awareness in Ghana annually. A team of nurses and doctors perform mental health screenings, work with local psychiatrists to provide treatments to institutionalized patients in various mental asylums and provide mental health awareness to the communities there.
- Kathleen Stuart, APRN, organized a Nursing grand rounds at Stamford Hospital and invited two guest speakers to lecture on the topic of LGBTQ individuals. This grand rounds held on July 18, 2019 was well received by the Nursing staff.

Current Initiatives

The Department's focus in the next year and beyond is in these areas:

- Geriatric Psychiatry — Expanding the geriatric psychiatry services will become increasingly important with the aging of "baby boomers."
- Medical Psychiatry Service — Assessment and treatment of co-morbid psychiatric/medical illnesses will have an increasingly pivotal role, particularly as we are the only community providers of these services in the area.
- There will be future opportunity to create specialized treatment programs to meet the needs of geriatric and medical psychiatric patients.
- Dual Diagnosis Treatment Services — As co-morbid psychiatric/substance abuse disorders continue to rise, the Unit will continue to adopt evidence-based practices in order to provide high-quality services for dually diagnosed patients.
- Behavioral Health Workgroup — Actively participate in the Behavioral Health Work Group-led projects to raise awareness and educate our communities about mental illness and impacts of alcohol and substance abuse.
- Access to Care—Collaborate with community treatment providers to improve access to care for the mentally ill patients.
- Community Care Coordination — Collaborate with community case managers to reduce preventable psychiatric readmissions and improve psychiatric care for patients in the community.
- PA Student Training — With the opening of Sacred Heart University PA School on site, Department staff and the psychiatry clinical services are playing a vital role in clinical training of PA students from this program.

The Department of Psychiatry is committed to partnering with colleagues in all departments and providing the finest psychiatric and behavioral healthcare services available.





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Interfaith
Chapel

WYOMI CARTON
M. STUDENT

Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY
M.A. ASSISTANT STUDENT

WYOMI CARTON

Department of Radiology



Brian Stainken, MD
Chair and Medical Director, Department of Radiology

A Letter From The Chair *The Year in Review*

Did you ever wonder what the “X” in x-ray refers to? To understand, for just a minute, you will have to revisit high school algebra class. Remember the equations? Remember solving for ‘x’? Well, in 1895 when Roentgen discovered that a charged vacuum tube caused the enclosure intended to block light to actually create light or fluoresce the unknown ‘x’ was some mysterious ‘beam’ in the realm of physics. The nature of “x” in terms of physics was ultimately explained but the central use of this tool in medicine to identify the unknown variable, the ‘x’ in a clinical sense, seems to know no limits.

You trust Radiology to solve for the ‘x’.

You trust us to do this safely. In the early days, widespread reports of bone necrosis, skin damage and secondary effects from non-medical and over-the-counter applications lead to the science of radiation biology. Did you know that we have a team of radiation physicists on site whose focus is to keep doses ‘as low as reasonably achievable’ for diagnostic imaging, interventional radiology and radiation therapy. This past year we reviewed CT radiation dosage at all of our sites and reduced dosages by as much as 40%, far below national norms. Later in FY19, we installed three new CT scanner machines at the hospital, Darien Imaging Center and Tully Health Center all with state-of-the-art dose-reduction software. Without getting into the physics of it, we can get to the ‘x’ with less dose than ever before.

You trust that we will be accurate and thorough. Our systems for interpretation have not kept up with our ability to create images. It’s not unusual these days for 1,000 image studies to generate huge amounts of data for our human eyes to digest and interpret for a variety of clinician audiences. We address this challenge in several ways, first is by using software to manipulate and ‘reconstruct’ the data set so it resembles the natural state. This is used for example when we non-invasively image the arterial tree to reconstruct the anatomy. This year, we successfully ‘virtualized’ these tools so that they can be controlled by each radiologist, as they need them. Second, we advanced our artificial intelligence toolbox to include next generation software for breast imaging, prostate imaging and lung nodule detection. These tools help steer the radiologist to the most concerning areas. They don’t obviate the need to look at every picture, but they can improve detection and comparison rates. Finally, we have a robust quality platform. We randomly peer review over 6,000 cases yearly, and validate our performance against a national database.

You trust that we will be there when you need us. We offer the same level of subspecialized service 24/7/365. Our ‘office’ never closes. We maintain five separate (diagnostic radiology, interventional radiology, neuro-interventional radiology, radiation oncology and breast imaging) on-site call groups as well as the off-site network.

Letter From The Chair continued

In the procedural domains of IR, RO and breast imaging, you trust that we will deliver expert care and communicate with you every step of the way.

We trust that we are hearing your voice. And finally in that sense, the results of this year's satisfaction survey were gratifying, more than doubling of overall satisfaction for imaging services. We trust that as a team we can deliver best in class care and continue exploring new and better ways to 'solve for the x' to the benefit of all our patients.

Active Staff

- Brian Stainken, MD - *Chairman*

Onsite Interventional Radiologists

- Brian Stainken, MD - *Chairman*
- Bryan Lazzara, MD
- Todd Miller, MD*
- Josef Noga, MD
- Gregg Zoarski, MD*

*denotes new staff

Onsite Diagnostic Radiologists

- Elizabeth Gaary, MD
- Harvey Hecht, MD
- Howard Liu, MD
- Jonathan Foster, MD
- Terry Levin, MD

Breast Radiologists

- **Moira O'Riordan, MD - Director Women's Imaging**
- Amy Sherman, MD
- Eva Rubin, MD (locum)
- Gary Griffin, MD (locum)
- Jay Sokolow, MD (locum)
- Jessica Kondraciuk, MD*
- Lily Kernagis, MD
- Valencia King, MD

*denotes new staff

Radiation Oncologists

- **Frank Masino, MD - Director Radiation Oncology**
- Sean Dowling, MD

Teleradiologists

- Aaron Potnick, MD
- Ashford McAllister, MD
- Benoit Luyckx, MD
- Chris Schettino, MD
- David Bass, MD
- Elizabeth Dubovsky, MD
- Eric Lizerbram, MD
- Francis Ferraro, MD
- Gauravi Sabharwal, MD
- James Hsu, MD
- Jeffrey Kleinman, MD
- Johanna Chang, MD
- Jose Arjona, MD
- Judith Craychee, MD

Teleradiologists (continued)

- Katherine Gyve-Ray, MD
- Laila Holmes, MD
- Leslie Jacobsen, MD
- Lisa Hughes, MD
- Mary Grebenac, MD
- Melanie Bula, MD
- Michael Berven, MD
- Michael Katz, MD
- Michael Mahlon, MD
- Robert Berger, MD
- Safwan Halabi, MD
- Samuel S'Doia, MD
- Scott Pretorius, MD
- Tony Maung, MD
- Vaseem Iqbal, MD
- Lorraine Ash, MD
- Inbal Cohen, MD
- Keith Chesser, MD
- Wendy Ellis, MD

Major Accomplishments

- Dr. Brian Stainken received a Lifetime Service Award from the American Board of Radiology.
- The Asia Pacific Society of Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology granted Honorary Membership to Dr. Brian Stainken.

Neuro-Interventional Radiology/Stroke Service Line

- Dr. Todd Miller joined Stamford Hospital from Montefiore Medical Center. He is the first interventional neuro-radiologist in Stamford Health history and the only interventional neuro-radiologist in Fairfield County.
- Dr. Todd Miller performed 15 stroke thrombectomy cases and the first cerebral aneurysm coiling.
- Stamford Health's neuroradiology service line hosted a CME event for local EMS providers, and a second one for local providers in the Greenwich market.

Department of Radiology

Major Accomplishments continued

Breast Imaging

- New leadership successfully transitioned the High-Risk Pilot to a full-time program.
- Stamford Health hired two new breast radiologists and promoted Dr. Moira O’Riordan to Division Chief and Co-Director of the Breast Center.
- For the division, mammograms increased 2% and breast MRIs increased 6% over last year.
- The division received several grants, including: Connecticut Breast Health Initiative, \$ 50,000; Fairfield County Community Foundation, \$ 5,000; Breast Cancer Alliance, \$ 50,000; and Pink Aid \$ 62,000.
- We updated technology, software and hardware, for all existing 3D mammography units to improve image quality and resolution, lower radiation dose and improve patient experience and comfort.
- Our DIEP surgical program is now a consistent offering thanks to the addition of another plastic surgeon, changes in block time and increased community awareness.

Diagnostic Radiology

- Diagnostic radiology experienced 9% growth in CT, and 3% in all other modalities.
- We successfully installed three new CT scanners (Hospital ED, Tully, and Darien).
- We installed Artificial Intelligence Computer-Aided Diagnostic software for lung nodule detection.
- We began participation in the American College of Radiology Dose index registry with dose reductions of up to 40% for common CT examinations.
- We began a cardiac MRI initiative using advanced reconstruction software and the initiation of clinical cardiac MRI imaging in collaboration with Cardiology.

Interventional Radiology

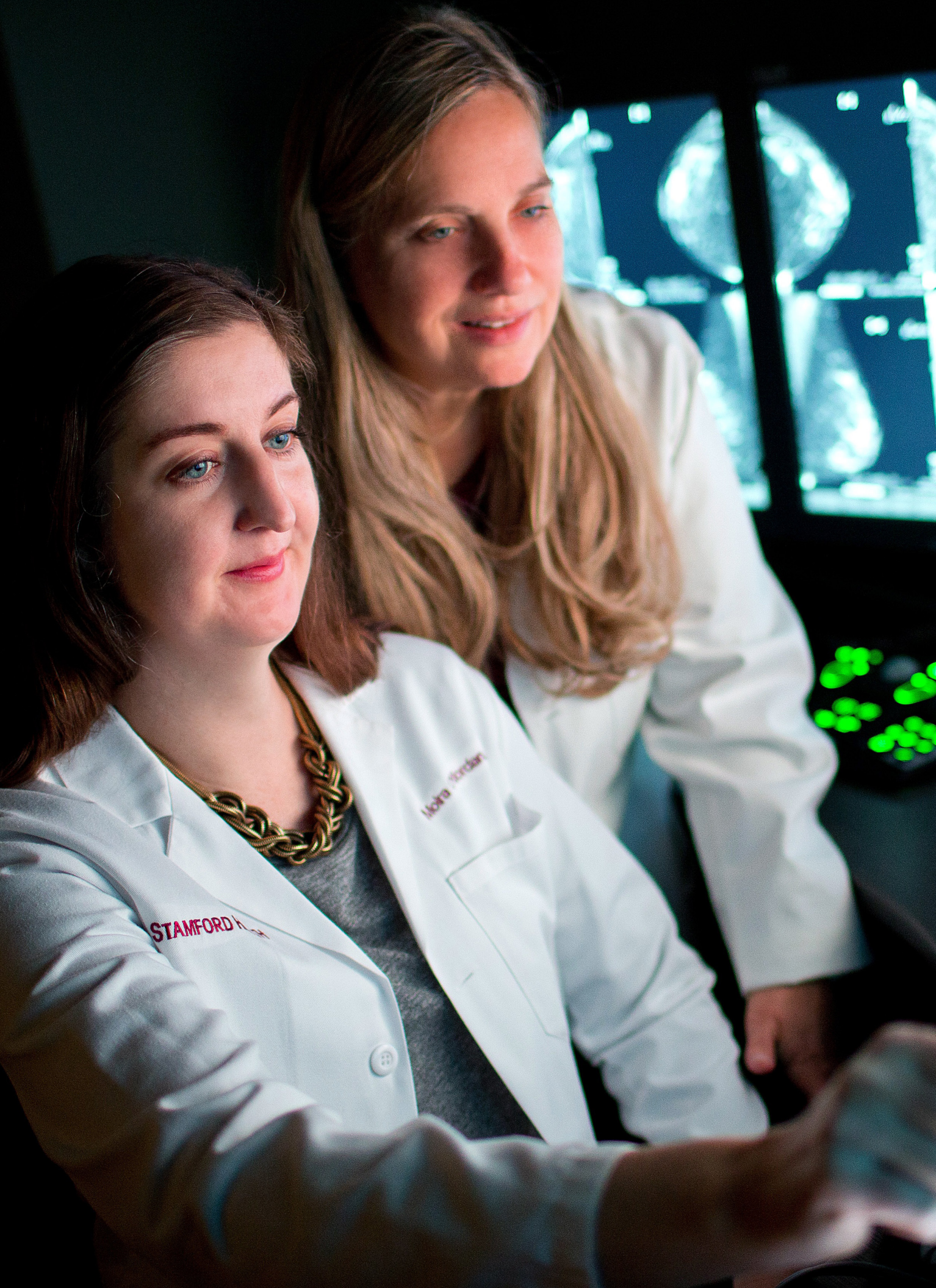
- The division experienced 17% volume growth last fiscal year.
- We onboarded our first Radiology Assistant, David Silva, RA, from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. This created a new category of mid-level providers with specialized skills in Radiology.
- We performed our first prostate embolization, a new minimally invasive therapy for benign prostatic hyperplasia.

Radiation Oncology

- Cyberknife was closed this year and all stereotactic treatments will now be administered on our new TruBeam linear accelerator at the Bennett Cancer Center.

Current Initiatives

- We are currently installing SCI systems, which will allow for paperless scheduling for diagnostic radiology.
- We will be installing a 3T MRI at the Darien Imaging Center. A first for Stamford Health, this platform will offer the most advanced high field imaging in the region in an environment purposefully engineered for patient comfort.
- We are further developing our neuro-interventional services and applying for advanced certification.
- We will be installing a third 3D mammography unit at Stamford Health’s Tully Health Center, and begin planning for a next generation breast health program.
- We are applying for American College of Radiology (ACR) accreditation in radiation oncology and are working toward ACR Diagnostic Imaging Center of Excellence Designation. This represents the highest accreditation available. It requires that the site hold every applicable modality certification and then pass an additional survey.
- We continue and strengthen the Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women’s Cancer Care Collaborative with radiation oncology.



Department of Surgery



David D. Yuh, MD, FACS, FACC

Chair, Department of Surgery

Active Staff, Division of Cardiac Surgery

Medical Student Clerkship Director (Stamford Affiliation),

Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

A Letter From The Chair *The Year in Review*

The importance of “trust” was well stated by the iconic investor and philanthropist Warren Buffett: “It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it.” Whether it is in business, education or personal relationships, trust is essential for sustaining success and quality. In the Department of Surgery, we have endeavored to foster and leverage trust in achieving our goals in patient safety and programmatic growth.

Perhaps what most recently exemplifies the importance of trust is the success of our Pre-Surgical Optimization Program (POP), a true collaborative effort between the Departments of Anesthesia, Medicine, Surgery and Perioperative Services to provide comprehensive, consistent, data-driven preoperative evaluation and preparation for all surgical inpatients. Although the conceptualization of the POP clinic has become a national standard amongst high-performing medical centers to reduce last-minute case cancellation rates and improve patient outcomes, it was initially met with concern from many quarters in the Stamford medical community. It was viewed by many as unnecessary and redundant.

Consequently, the champions of this initiative went to great lengths to earn the trust of the medical community with hard data and reassurances of improved patient safety and satisfaction. Therefore, I am pleased to report that, over the past year, the POP clinic has grown to encompass essentially all inpatient surgical preoperative evaluations and is gradually gaining acceptance by our medical community by delivering on its promises. Same-day case cancellation rates due to medical issues have plummeted from a longstanding annual average of 7-8% to a miniscule 0.01% in FY2019, accompanied by patient satisfaction rates consistently above 90%. Along the same lines, I am proud to report that Stamford Hospital has achieved “meritorious” status with respect to our composite quality outcome scores for high-risk patients. All of us in the Department thank the Stamford Health medical community for trusting us in our efforts to set a new standard for surgical patient safety.

Another dimension of trust demonstrated this past year has been amongst our surgeons. Dr. Richard Hsu trusted our Department to provide robust support in bringing his nationally recognized Median Arcuate Ligament Syndrome (MALS) program to Stamford Hospital, offering a multidisciplinary approach in treating a particularly complex group of patients. This new collaboration has resulted in outstanding clinical outcomes and many heart-warming expressions of gratitude from heretofore desperate patients. Our Bariatric Surgical program has now brought three different bariatric surgical groups together. Although they are competing practices, I have been impressed at the trust they have exhibited amongst themselves in building an already successful Center for Surgical Weight Loss. This past year, our program again received Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program Certification from the American College of Surgeons. Trust is also driving further collaboration with our medical weight loss experts in the Department of Medicine towards building a truly comprehensive weight loss program, offering patients reasoned, data-driven strategies in achieving their weight loss needs.

As always, at the core of our efforts are the exceptional individuals that strive to earn the trust of our colleagues and our patients every day... the trust that we will always pursue a passionate culture of excellence and that our patients' interests will be held paramount. In that regard, our dedicated nurses, perioperative staff, surgical residents, physician assistants, aides, therapists, technologists and administrative staff, now and forever, are Stamford Health's most important assets.

Bariatric Surgery



James Bonheur, MD
Division Director

Active Staff

- Philip Bilderback, MD
- Sherard Chiu, MD
- Craig Floch, MD*
- Neil Floch, MD*
- Abraham Fridman, MD*
- Jai Prasad, MD
- Nikhilesh Sekhar, MD
- Eric Sommer, MD

*denotes new staff

Breast Surgery



Helen A. Pass, MD
Division Director

Active Staff

- Carol Baird, RN, APRN
- Valerie Brutus, MD
- Mandy Greenberg, MD

Cardiovascular Surgery



Michael A. Coady, MD, MPH, MBA
Division Director

Active Staff

- William C. Feng, MD, ScD
- David D. Yuh, MD, FACS, FACC

Colon and Rectal Surgery



Marilee Freitas, MD
Division Director

Active Staff

- Ryan Bendl, DO
- James M. McClane, MD
- Shahzad Zafar, MD

General Surgery



William J. Symons, MD
Vice Chair, Administrative Affairs

Active Staff

- Philip A. Bilderback, MD
- James A. Bonheur, MD
- Sherard Chiu, MD
- Kevin M. Dwyer, MD
- James Lee, MD*
- Kevin D. Miller, MD
- Joey C. Papa, MD
- Jay Prasad, MD
- Nikhilesh R. Sekhar, MD
- Eric Sommer, MD
- Gerard Weinberg, MD
- Mohamad Zanbrakji, MD

*denotes new staff

Department of Surgery

Neurosurgery



Andrea F. Douglas, MD
Division Director

Active Staff

- Paul J. Apostolides, MD
- Alain De Lotbiniere, MD
- Amory J. Fiore, MD
- Avinash Mohan, MD
- C. Cory Rosenstein, MD
- Scott L. Simon, MD

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery



Robert M. Yudell, DDS, MD
Division Director

Active Staff

- Imanuel Babayev, MD
- Janet Bodey, MD
- Naushad Edibam, DMD
- Christine L. Hamilton-Hall, DMD, MD

Ophthalmology



Glenn E. Ostriker, MD
Division Director

Active Staff

- Patrick Coady, MD*
- Robert J. Fucigna, MD
- Gregory M. Gallousis, MD
- Joan T. Gewirtz, MD
- John Huang, MD*
- Peter Libre, MD
- Jacqueline J. Littzi, MD
- Brad E. Oren, MD
- Philip A. Piro, MD
- Lauren Schneider, MD
- Omar Shakir, MD
- Elizabeth Siderides, MD
- Esteban C. Vietorisz, MD
- Eric L. Wasserman, MD
- Richard B. Weber, MD
- Andrew B. Wolf, MD
- James Wong, MD

* denotes new staff

Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery



Bruce H. Klenoff, MD
Division Director

Active Staff

- Steven A. Bramwit, MD
- Jacquelyn M. Brewer, MD
- Jason R. Klenoff, MD
- Biana G. Lanson, MD
- Paul Neubauer, MD

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery



Harold S. Gewirtz, MD
Division Director

Active Staff

- Heather Erhard, MD*
- Chang Soo Kim, MD
- Anya Kishinevsky, MD
- Gregory Latrenta, MD
- Yuen-Jong Liu, MD
- Rafael Magana, MD
- Sandra L. Margoles, MD
- Leif O. Nordberg, MD
- Leo Otake, MD
- David Passaretti, MD
- Arthur R. Rosenstock, MD
- Kevin Small, MD
- Mrudangi Thakur, MD

*denotes new staff

Thoracic Surgery



Michael Ebright, MD
Division Director

Active Staff

- William C. Feng, MD
- Michael Ebright, MD – Division Director
- Mark E. Ginsburg, MD
- Joshua Sonett, MD

Podiatry



Jeremy A. Bier, DPM
Division Director

Active Staff

- Rachel Albright, MD*
- Rui De Melo, DPM
- Marissa Girolamo, DPM
- Ellen Golden, DPM
- Matthew D. Juriga, DPM
- Chris P. Kassaris, DPM
- Francisco G. Lago, DPM
- Mary D. Reilly, DPM
- David P. Rosenzweig, DPM
- Steven B. Shindler, DPM
- Peter Y. Siroka, DPM
- Josephine Velazquez, DPM
- Robert F. Weiss, DPM
- Scott H. Weiss, DPM

*denotes new staff

Trauma Surgery and Critical Care



Kevin M. Dwyer, MD
Division Director

Active Staff

- Kevin Miller, MD
- Joey Papa, MD, FACS
- William J. Symons, MD, FACS
- Mohamad Zanbrakji, MD

Department of Surgery

Urology



Michael E. Karellas, MD, FACS
Division Director

Active Staff

- Mathew Goland-VanRyn, MD*
- Robert H. Lovegrove, MD
- Michael J. Nurzia, MD
- Richard P. Santarosa, MD
- Vincent J. Tumminello, MD

**denotes new staff*

Vascular Surgery



Timothy Manoni, MD
Division Director

Active Staff

- Stephen M. Bauer, MD
- Andrew R. Baxter, MD
- Jonathan N. Bowman, MD
- Paul J. Gagne, MD
- Lee Goldstein, MD
- Richard C. Hsu, MD, PhD
- Taras V. Kucher, MD
- Ben U. Marsan, MD
- Bart Muhs, MD, PhD
- Richard Hsu, MD, PhD

Urology - Pediatrics



Miriam Harel, MD
Division Director

Active Staff

- Lori Dyer, MD
- Ronnie Fine, MD
- Mark Horowitz, MD*
- Richard Schluskel, MD
- Paul F. Zelkovic, MD

**denotes new staff*

Major Achievements & Current Initiatives

Bariatrics

- The Center for Surgical Weight Loss received American College of Surgeon (ACS) Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP) re-verification in January 2019.

Colorectal

- The Colorectal Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) protocol was implemented in 2017 and continues to grow in 2019. Data reviewed for 32 patients from start of protocol in October 2017 through April 2018 showed significant results in average length of stay decreasing by two days overall. Ongoing studies reviewing length of stay, pain medication usage and surgical outcomes is underway.

General Surgery

- Dr. James Lee was recruited from Columbia University to provide expert, comprehensive treatment for endocrine patients.

Trauma and Critical Care Surgery

- The Level II Trauma Center received American College of Surgeons re-verification at the beginning of FY19.

Urology

- All major urologic procedures including radical prostatectomy, partial/radical nephrectomy and radical cystectomy are being performed robotically with great outcomes.
- Intravesical chemotherapy treatment of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer has continued growth and collaboration with the Bennett Cancer Center.
- We now offer the latest technology with the UroNav MRI Fusion Prostate Biopsy system. With this technology, the MRI image is fused with an ultrasound image to help pinpoint questionable areas of the prostate for needle biopsy.

Vascular

- The Vascular Quality Initiative (VQI) program, which collects clinical data on vascular patients to improve care, has been approved and will be implemented in FY20.
- We are exploring a partnership with Lifeline Vascular Care Center to promote superior care for our patients and exceptional service to physicians.
- Our Median Arcuate Ligament Syndrome (MALS) program continues to grow in volume with excellent patient outcomes.

Other

- We successfully launched the Heartburn, Reflux & Esophageal Specialty Center in March 2019, and a new registry was initiated to track Barrett's esophagus patients. A new multidisciplinary esophageal disease conference will be implemented in FY20, and behavioral healthcare services will be available.

